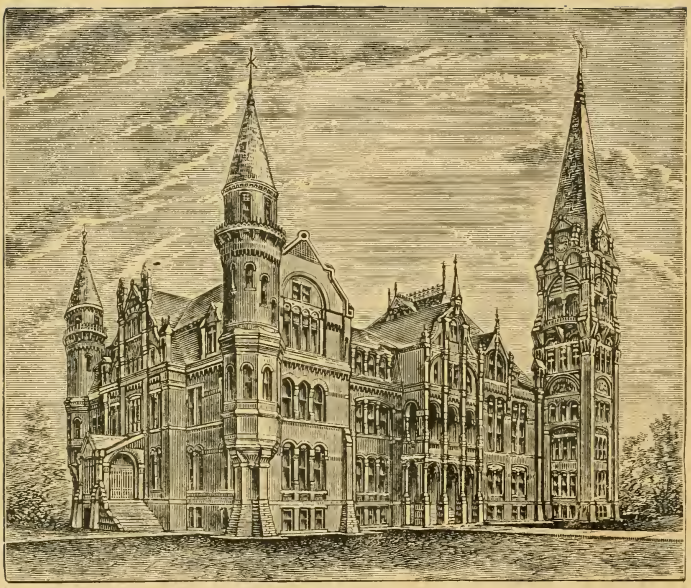
MEMORIAL OF THE ERECTION OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

Deacidified using the Bookkeeper process.
Neutralizing Agent: Magnesium Oxide
Treatment Date:
AUG 1997
BOOKKEEPER
PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
111 Thomson Park Drive
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
(412) 779-2111



H. F. JACOBS,
W. W. WILLIAMS,
PATRICK COAR,
COMMISSIONERS

LACKAWANNA COUNTY COURT-HOUSE.

G. PERRY,
ARCHITECT.

JOHN SNAITH,
CONTRACTOR.

MEMORIAL

OF THE ERECTION OF

LACKAWANNA ✻ COUNTY,

IN THE

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

COMPRISING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE PROGRESS OF THE NEW-COUNTY MOVEMENT, THE LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE OF THE COURT-HOUSE, AND A STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF THE

Speeches at the Banquet

HELD AT THE WYOMING HOUSE, SCRANTON, MAY 25, 1882.

COMPILED BY

ROBERT H. McKUNE.

SCRANTON:
M. R. WALTER, PRINTER
1882.

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT

BY

H. H. COSTON,

REPORTER FOR THE COURTS OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

PREFACE.

THE only apology I have for offering this compilation to the public is that the events and incidents that are here narrated I believe are worthy to be gathered together; so that those who shall come after us may have some appreciation of how joyous we were when, after nearly forty years' struggle,—when many of those who were the earnest and energetic workers in the commencement of the new-county agitation had passed away, and some of their places filled by their sons, and the number of workers augmented year by year as the population of the district increased,—it was our fortune to see our fondest wishes fully realized, and we made happy, on the evening of August 13th, 1878.

When the result of that day's election had been sufficiently ascertained to assure us that the people had declared that, in accordance with the laws of the State, the district set apart by the Commissioners, who were appointed by the Governor, should constitute and be known as Lackawanna County, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it was not strange that the friends of

the new county were happy, though there were some in our midst who were full of fear and evil prognostications for the future of the new county. But more than three years have passed; the organization of the county has been made complete; from the judges to the auditors, all along the line, the officials are working in harmony for the public good. From the organization, the Commissioners have been prudent, and the finances of the county well cared for. The evil forebodings have not come to pass.

The citizens, having full confidence in the Commissioners and all who were in authority, said, almost as one man, Let us lay the corner-stone of this projected temple of Justice, with pomp and ceremony befitting so magnificent a structure. In accordance with the public feeling, the Commissioners inaugurated the arrangements for the corner-stone laying, and the citizens, with hearty accord, acted with them; and thus, on the 25th day of May, 1882, in the city of Scranton, were things done and words uttered that give to me an excuse for compiling and publishing this work.

ROBERT H. McKUNE.

Scranton, Pa., June 1, 1882.

Synopsis of Initiatory History.

LACKAWANNA County erected from the County of Luzerne under an Act of Assembly approved April 17, 1878.

Commissioners appointed by the Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and Secretary of Internal Affairs to inquire into and make report concerning the division of Luzerne and the erection of Lackawanna: David Summers, of Susquehanna County; William Griffis, of Bradford County; Richard H. Saunders, of Philadelphia.

Surveyors appointed by the Commissioners to survey the boundary-line between the old and the new county: James Archbald, F. L. Faries, P. Blewitt, A. Bryson, Jr.

Election held August 13, 1878—For the new county, 9,615; against, 1,986; majority for new county, 7,629.

August 21, 1878, the Governor proclaimed Lackawanna the sixty-seventh county in the Commonwealth.

In August, 1878, the following-named gentlemen received their commissions from the Governor, and entered upon the duties of their office. Messrs. F. L. Hitchcock and A. Miner Renshaw were commissioned to administer to them the oath of office.

First Officers of the County.

President Judge,	BENJAMIN S. BENTLEY.*
Prothonotary,	F. L. HITCHCOCK.
Sheriff,	A. B. STEVENS.
Treasurer,	Col. WILLIAM N. MONIES.
Clerk of Courts,	JOSHUA R. THOMAS.
Recorder,	A. M. RENSHAW.
Register,	JOHN L. LEE.
District-Attorney,	F. W. GUNSTER.
County Surveyor,	P. M. WALSH.
County Commissioners,	H. L. GAIGE, H. F. BARRETT, DENNIS TIERNEY.
County Auditors,	W. J. LEWIS, ROBERT REEVES, E. J. LYNETT.
Jury Commissioners,	EUGENE SYNDER, J. J. LYNCH.
Coroner,	EDWARD TRAVERS, M. D.

*The appointment of Judge Bentley was made on the ground that Lackawanna County, the moment it was erected, became, under the provisions of the Constitution, a separate judicial district. A mandamus was issued by the Supreme Court, wherein it was decided that the Constitution did not execute itself, but that legislation was necessary before a new district could be created, hence the appointment was illegal and void. By the provisions of the New-County Act, the new county was to remain in the same judicial district with the old, hence the Judges of Luzerne organized and held the courts. By Act of Assembly of March 13th, 1879, Lackawanna was made the Forty-Fifth Judicial District, and John Handley assigned as President Judge and Alfred Hand as Additional Law Judge thereof.

Present County Officers.

PRESIDENT JUDGE, . . HON. JOHN HANDLEY.

ADDITIONAL LAW JUDGE, . HON. ALFRED HAND.

ASSOCIATE JUDGES, . . W. J. LEWIS,
P. M. MOFFITT.

PROTHONOTARY, . . HENRY SOMMERS.
CHIEF DEPUTY—T. P. PENMAN.
CLERKS—THOMAS J. DUGGAN, ARTHUR C. LOGAN.

SHERIFF, . . . A. B. STEVENS.
DEPUTIES—T. E. REYNOLDS, J. H. POWELL, F. E. STEVENS.

TREASURER, . . . E. H. RIPPLE.
DEPUTY—GEORGE H. BIRDSALL.

RECORDER, . . . THOMAS R. LATHROPE.
DEPUTY—E. D. JENKINS.

CLERK OF COURTS, . . W. G. DANIELS.

REGISTER OF WILLS, . GEORGE FARBER.
DEPUTY—C. F. WAGNER.

DISTRICT-ATTORNEY, . . E. W. SIMRELL.

COUNTY SURVEYOR, . . RICHARD EVANS.

CORONER, . . . N. Y. LEET, M. D.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, . H. P. JACOBS,
W. W. WILLIAMS,
PATRICK COAR.
CLERK—D. W. POWELL.

COUNTY AUDITORS, . . JOHN MORRIS,
D. M. VOYLE,
H. F. WARDELL.

JURY COMMISSIONERS, . P. J. PHILBIN,
H. L. HALSTEAD.

History of Lackawanna.

From the Hon. Lewis Pughe's Sketch of "Scranton—Past, Present, and Future."

PURSUANT to a proclamation by Governor Hartranft, an election was held August 13, 1878, in the territory of the proposed new county, which resulted in a vote of 9,615 for the new county, and 1,986 against it, the city of Scranton casting a majority of over 6,000 for the new county.

The result was certified to the Governor August 15, 1878, by David Summers, William Griffis, and Richard H. Saunders, commissioners appointed to inquire into and make report concerning the division of Luzerne and the erection of Lackawanna.

The Governor, on the 21st day of August, proclaimed Lackawanna the sixty-seventh county in the Commonwealth, and appointed the county officers, who were selected from all the political parties in the county.

The newly-appointed County Commissioners decided upon the city of Scranton as the county seat, until the next general election, to be held November 5, 1878,

when, according to the provisions of the New-County Act, the electors of the county balloted for and selected Scranton as the county seat permanently.

Among the appointments for county officers was that of Hon. Benjamin F. Bentley, of Williamsport, to be President Judge of the county courts. And, by virtue of his commission, and the proclamation of the Governor, Judge Bentley proceeded, on the 2d day of September, to organize the several courts of Lackawanna, in what was known as the Tripp building, situated on the southeast corner of Wyoming Avenue and Linden Street, which was selected as the court-house temporarily. Here the county and court officers and the bar were duly sworn in, and the judicial machinery supposed to be regularly started. On the 17th of September the Court made an order designating the Washington Hall, on the corner of Lackawanna and Penn Avenues, as the place for holding the courts until otherwise ordered. The Second National Bank building was rented for county offices, and there began such an influx of business as fully exemplified the necessity of a new county.

Soon after the "Bentley Court" was instituted, A. A. Chase, of Scranton, applied to the Supreme Court for a mandamus to compel the Judges of Luzerne County to meet and organize the courts of the new county, basing his application on the ground that, by the

provisions of the New-County Act, Lackawanna was not a separate judicial district, and, therefore, the only court authorized by law was that to be established by the Judges of Luzerne County, the Eleventh Judicial District. The application was sustained, and notwithstanding the large number of judgments, mortgages, and deeds recorded, and suits begun, involving hundreds of thousands of dollars, the Supreme Court, on the 18th of October, 1878, issued a peremptory mandamus to GARRICK M. HARDING, President Judge, and JOHN HANDLEY and WILLIAM H. STANTON, Additional Law Judges of Luzerne County, to forthwith organize the Courts of Lackawanna County. And thereby the "Bentley Court" and all proceedings thereunder were annulled.

Pursuant to this mandamus, the Judges of Luzerne County proceeded, on the 24th of October, 1878, to organize the Courts of Lackawanna County, and the county machinery was started in due form of law.

There has been a steady press of business in the county offices, which can be measured by the following statement: Up to the 1st of April, 1882, the Prothonotary has filed 10,728 judgments and actions; the Recorder has recorded over 4,000 deeds and more than 1,000 mortgages; 2,289 executions have been issued; the Sheriff has made over 600 real-estate sales; there have been more than 1,600 cases on the trial-lists, of which

more than 1,000 have been disposed of, and the trial-list is now two years in arrears.

In the early part of 1879 the matter of erecting county buildings began to be agitated. Nothing positive as to a location was determined until the 15th of December, 1879, when the County of Lackawanna, by the County Commissioners, accepted as a gift a deed from the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company and Edward F. Hodges, John B. Newman, and Isaac C. Price, trustees of the Susquehanna and Wyoming Valley Railroad and Coal Company, for the block bounded by Washington Avenue, Linden Street, Adams Avenue, and Spruce Street. The conditions of the deed are as follows:

First. The center of the block, containing two hundred and forty feet in front on Washington Avenue, the same on Adams Avenue, is to be used for the erection of a county building and a public park.

Second. That portion of the block on Linden Street is held in trust, to be conveyed to the city of Scranton, subject to be used for the erection of city buildings and a public park, provided that the city will exchange therefor, the land known as the "Tripp property" near Providence, to be used by the county for the location of a jail, if demanded by the county.

Third. That portion of the block on Spruce Street is held in trust, to be conveyed to the United States of

America for the purpose of erecting government buildings thereon.

Fourth. The two last-named portions revert to the grantor, if not used for the purposes specified.

Notwithstanding the many doubts expressed as to the possibility of securing a substantial foundation on this property, which had recently been an impassable swamp, yet the Commissioners determined to take the initiatory steps towards erecting a court-house. And on May 15, 1880, they issued a circular inviting competition from architects in presenting plans for a court-house, in size not to be less than 100 feet by 140 feet, and in cost not to exceed $100,000.

August 7, 1880, the plans of M. E. Beebe, of Buffalo, N. Y., were accepted, and the Commissioners advertised for proposals from builders and contractors for the construction of the building. When the bids were opened, the lowest was $204,000. Therefore the plans and bids were rejected.

October 20, 1880, another circular was issued to architects for a building not to exceed $140,000 in cost. January 6, 1881, the plans of I. G. Perry, of Binghamton, N. Y., were accepted, for a first-class fire-proof building, and according to the conditions of the circular issued.

Proposals from builders were again received, and on March 18, 1881, the contract was awarded to John

Snaith, of Ithaca, N. Y., whose bid was $139,927 for superstructure and foundation to a depth of twenty-four feet below water-table, and $5.00 per perch for stone-masonry and 60 cents per cubic yard for extra excavation; the building to be made of native sandstone, the same as that in the Library Building, on Wyoming Avenue, and to be trimmed with Onondaga grey lime-stone. The contract calls for the completion of the building on the 1st day of April, 1883.

Ground was broken by the contractor on the 14th day of April, 1881.

In excavating for the foundation, the greatest depth of excavation is thirty-four feet eight inches below the grade of Washington Avenue; the average depth of foundation is twenty-nine feet six inches. The additional cost for excavation and foundation was $30,932.55; original contract, $139,927.00; total, $170,859.55.

Mr. Snaith gave approved bonds in the sum of $75,000 for the faithful fulfillment of his contract.

In order that the work might be prosecuted as speedily as possible, the Commissioners decided, April 23, 1881, to issue bonds for $150,000, pledging in payment therefor the taxable property of the county, which amounts to more than $30,000,000, on full valuation. These bonds bear five per cent. interest, and $100,000 of them have already been delivered, many at a premium.

The Corner-Stone Laying.

THE County Commissioners having designated Thursday, May 25, 1882, for laying the corner-stone of the new court-house, and as the feeling of the citizens of the county was nearly unanimous that the ceremonies should be appropriate to the occasion, upon invitation of the Commissioners, on the evening of May 3d, E. P. Kingsbury, A. B. Stevens, Colonel U. G. Schoonmaker, Colonel F. L. Hitchcock, Major E. H. Ripple, Thomas H. Dale, and L. A. Watres met and organized for the purpose of making necessary arrangements for the laying of the corner-stone.

The following-named gentlemen were appointed as the Executive Committee: E. P. Kingsbury, Chairman; Thomas H. Dale, Secretary; Colonel U. G. Schoonmaker, Colonel H. M. Boies, Colonel F. L. Hitchcock, H. P. Jacobs, W. W. Williams, Patrick Coar, A. B. Stevens, L. A. Watres. Marshal, Colonel F. L. Hitchcock; Aids, Colonel U. G. Schoonmaker, H. W. Kingsbury, John Page.

Colonel Schoonmaker was designated to receive all invited guests, and to have full charge of the seating on the platform at the time of the exercises.

Colonel H. M. Boies, A. B. Stevens, and Thomas H. Dale were appointed to determine what should be placed in the corner-stone.

The District Deputy Grand Master of F. & A. M., A. B. Stevens, accepted the invitation to lay the corner-stone with Masonic ceremonies.

The following is a copy of the invitation sent to members of the Lackawanna Bar:

H. P. JACOBS,
W. W. WILLIAMS,
PATRICK COAR,
Commissioners.

D. W. POWELL, *Clerk*

L. A. WATRES, *Solicitor*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

Scranton, Pa., May 18, 1882.

Esq.,

Dear Sir:

The Corner-Stone of the New Court-House will be laid on Thursday, May 25, 1882, at 11 o'clock A. M.

This event in the history of our county is one of peculiar interest to the legal profession, and it is desired that the ceremonies of the occasion should be graced by the presence of the Lackawanna Bar.

It therefore gives us pleasure in extending to you a cordial invitation to attend.

Very Respectfully.

H. P. JACOBS,
W. W. WILLIAMS.
PATRICK COAR,
County Commissioners.

Invitations were extended to the judges and county officers of Luzerne County, the judges and bar of Lackawanna County, the Mayor, City Councils, City Superintendent of Schools, and Board of Control of the city of Scranton, the County Superintendent, and directors of the schools of the county, the military and civic societies, and various organizations of the city and county. The following is the form of invitation sent to the friends of the new-county movement:

H. P. JACOBS,
W. W. WILLIAMS, } *Commissioners.*
PATRICK COAR,

O. W. POWELL, *Clerk.*

L. A. WATRES, *Solicitor.*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

Scranton, Pa., May 18, 1882.

Esq.,

Dear Sir:

Referring to your well-known interest in the new County of Lackawanna, it is with pleasure the County Commissioners extend to you a special invitation to be present upon the occasion of laying the Corner-Stone of the New Court-House, which event, with appropriate ceremonies, will take place Thursday, May 25, 1882, at 11 o'clock.

Very Respectfully,

H. P. JACOBS,
W. W. WILLIAMS,
PATRICK COAR,
County Commissioners.

The following letters of regret were received by the County Commissioners:

WILKES-BARRE, PA., May 25, 1882.

MESSRS. JACOBS, WILLIAMS, AND COAR, *Commissioners Lackawanna County:*

GENTLEMEN: I regret very much that my engagements for to-day prevent my acceptance of your kind invitation to be present at the laying of the corner-stone of your new court-house.

I am, yours very truly,

J. VAUGHN DARLING.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5, 1882.

MR. W. W. WILLIAMS, *Secretary Lackawanna County Commissioners:*

MY DEAR SIR: Your favor of 3d inst., conveying invitation to speak at the corner-stone laying, is just received. It will be impossible for me to accept, as my health is no more than sufficient for my duties here. With assurances of appreciation of your attention,

Very truly yours,

J. A. SCRANTON.

WILKES-BARRE, PA., May 22, 1882.

H. P. JACOBS, W. W. WILLIAMS, AND PATRICK COAR:

GENTLEMEN: Your kind letter inviting me to be present at the laying of the corner-stone of your county court-house has been received. I am pleased with the invitation, and shall endeavor to be present; at all events, you have my best

wishes, and from all that I can learn, you are entitled to, and will receive, great credit for projecting such a commodious building. No doubt you will have a good time.

Yours, very truly,

D. L. RHONE.

WAVERLY, PA., May 24, 1882.

HON. R. H. MCKUNE:

DEAR SIR: My father directs me to say that, on account of illness during past few days, he will be unable to attend the ceremony of laying corner-stone of new court-house of Lackawanna County, and requests that you will present to committee of arrangements his thanks for their kind invitation, and his regrets that for reasons above named he cannot be present. Tendering his best wishes for prospects of new county,

Very truly yours,

S. BEDFORD,

For A. BEDFORD.

WILKES-BARRE, PA., May 18, 1882.

MESSRS. H. P. JACOBS, W. W. WILLIAMS, PATRICK COAR, *Commissioners of Lackawanna County:*

GENTLEMEN: Your esteemed favor of 17th instant, inviting me to participate in the laying of the corner-stone of the new court-house May 25th, is received. I regret my inability to attend, as I will have to be in Massachusetts that week, and think I cannot be at home in time to attend. I will be with you in spirit, however. Hoping that your labors will terminate in a final success,

I remain, with respect, yours,

D. L. O'NEILL.

The following general order for the formation of line and route of march was issued by Chief Marshal Hitchcock:

First. The Thirteenth Regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania, Colonel H. M. Boies commanding, is assigned the right of the column, and will form on Lackawanna Avenue, right resting at Washington Avenue, facing east.

Second. The Veteran Soldiers' Association will follow the Thirteenth Regiment, N. G. P., and will form on Wyoming Avenue, right resting at Lackawanna Avenue.

Third. Lieutenant Ezra S. Griffin Post, No. 139, Grand Army of the Republic, will follow the Veterans, and will form on Wyoming Avenue, right resting near Center Street.

Fourth. Lieutenant Ezra S. Griffin Camp, No. 8, Sons of Veterans, will follow the Grand Army, and will form immediately in their rear.

Fifth. Cœur de Lion Commandery, Knights Templar, as the special escort of the Masonic Lodges and R. W. Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., of Pennsylvania, will form on Lackawanna Avenue, right resting at Wyoming Avenue.

Sixth. The several Lodges, F. & A. M., followed by the R. W. Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, will form on Lackawanna Avenue, immediately in rear of the Commandery.

Route.—The procession will move promptly at 10.15 a. m., over the following route: Up Lackawanna Avenue to Adams; Adams to Mulberry; Mulberry to Wyoming; Wyoming to Spruce; Spruce to the court-house.

On arriving at the court-house, the military, Veterans, Sons of Veterans, and Grand Army will form line to the left, parallel with and covering the southern front of the building, leaving room for the Masonic fraternity to pass.

Cœur de Lion Commandry, Knights Templar, will then escort the Masonic fraternity to their places upon the platform, after which the military, Veterans, and Grand Army will mass at the corner-stone.

The several organizations proposing to join the procession must be in position, ready to move, at 10:15 a. m., and will report their arrival promptly to the Chief Marshal, in front of the Wyoming House.

The following appointments upon the staff of the Chief Marshal are announced: Colonel U. G. Schoonmaker, Assistant Marshal; H. W. Kingsbury, Aide-de-Camp; John Page, Aide-de-Camp. They will be respected and obeyed accordingly.

All invited guests other than those joining the procession will report to Colonel U. G. Schoonmaker, Assistant Marshal, at the Forest House parlors at 10 a. m., who is charged with the care of the platform at the corner-stone and all seating arrangements.

F. L. Hitchcock, Chief Marshal.

The Day.

THE morning of May 25th, the day selected for the corner-stone laying, was one of great disappointment to all who had made preparations to take part in the exercises of the day, and to the thousands who had anticipated seeing the pageant and listening to the ceremonies and oration. A heavy rain had commenced during the night. The morning was cold, and the rain gave to everything a dreary appearance. The morning trains arriving in the city brought a large number of persons who had hoped that the storm would cease before the hour of parade.

The Catholic clergy of the city tendered to the Commissioners the use of the large tent which they use at their school-commencement exercises. The tent was erected upon the platform, and was a protection from the storm to those who took part in the exercises. Eleven o'clock, and still raining. The Committee of Arrangements, upon consultation, decided that the pro-

ceedings should take place. Chief Marshal HITCHCOCK ordered into line, in the following order—

The Veteran Soldiers' Association.
Ringold Band.
Lieutenant Ezra S. Griffin Post, G. A. R.
Sons of Veterans.
Bauer's Band.
The Masonic Lodges.
Knights Templar, as escort of the acting Officers of the Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of the State of Pennsylvania.

Owing to the weather, the Thirteenth Regiment, with its band, was not in line.

After arriving at the court-house, the Veterans, Grand Army, and Sons of Veterans opened ranks to the right and left, at the side of the building facing Spruce Street. Right Worshipful Grand Master ASA B. STEVENS, preceded by the Grand Sword-Bearer, and followed by the officers of the Grand Lodge, the proper authorities, and the members of the Grand Lodge, then advanced to the platform, the Veterans and Post taking their places near the corner-stone. As the procession entered, Bauer's Band rendered a march, after which Right Worshipful ASA B. STEVENS directed the grand officers to take their appropriate places and stations. Commisssioner JACOBS then presided. After the proper positions were taken, Grand Marshal BUCK proclaimed:

"Silence! Silence! Silence!"

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master E. P. KINGSBURY addressed the Grand Master:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SIR: The duly-constituted authorities for the erection of the court-house of Lackawanna County, at Scranton, have requested you to perform the ceremonies of laying the corner-stone. The necessary arrangements have been made by the committee, and I have now the pleasure to present to you their chairman."

Commissioner JACOBS, chairman of the committee, then addressed the Grand Master, as follows:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SIR: The committee charged with the duty of preparing the corner-stone have completed their labors, and it is now ready to be laid."

The Right Worthy Grand Master replied:

"MR. CHAIRMAN: Thanking the authorities represented by you for the honor paid to the Craft, in the invitation to the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to lay the corner-stone of Lackawanna County court-house, we shall now proceed to perform that duty according to our ancient usages and customs, and landmarks of Free Masons."

Grand Chaplain R. W. VAN SCHOICK then delivered very impressively the following invocation:

O, Thou Supreme Architect of the Universe, in Thy name we assemble upon this day, and we lift our hands and our hearts unto Thee, O Creator and Father. Deign to look upon us from the throne of Thy Majesty, even upon us, the unworthy suppliants of Thy favor. Thou hast taught us to look unto Thee in all the undertakings of life: to count upon Thy help in every laudable enterprise. We invoke Thy presence, we invoke Thy blessing upon the work of our hands to-day.

We beseech Thee, our God, let thy blessing continue upon our nation and Commonwealth. Bless the President of the United States, the Governor of this great State, the legislative and judicial officers of the land and nation, and all who are united with them in authority. May they all be men of God, in whom Thou canst find delight, and by whom Thou wilt bring upon the people great prosperity.

And now, O great Architect of the Universe, remember Thy servants who have been called to the performance of the important duties now devolving upon them. Lend Thine aid and bestow Thy benediction as they shall prepare and lay the corner-stone of the edifice here to be erected, for "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." May the structure knit together by this stone, in the beauty and grandeur of its material parts, typify the abiding presence of that righteousness which alone exalteth a nation.

O, Thou Sovereign Architect of the Universe, have respect unto the prayer of Thy

servant, and to his supplication, and enkindle, we beseech Thee, in our hearts a flame of true devotion and reverence for Thee, brotherly kindness to each other, and charity to all mankind.

And to Thee, the one only living and true God, we ascribe all power and majesty and dominion, now and evermore, world without end. Amen.

At its conclusion the brethren responded: "Amen. So mote it be. Amen."

Bauer's Band then rendered a most beautiful and stirring selection.

The Right Worshipful Grand Master then directed Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer JOSEPH ALEXANDER to place the documents, coins, and other articles in the corner-stone. Having attended to that, the Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer addressed the Right Worshipful Grand Master:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SIR: The coins and other valuable presents set apart to be placed in the corner-stone, are now duly deposited therein; and your directions have been faithfully obeyed."

The Right Worshipful Grand Secretary then read a list of articles so deposited, which is as follows:

One copy of Holy Bible.
One copy of Revised New Testament.
List of all churches in Scranton, and names of pastors, 1882.
Silver coin of United States, A. D. 1881.
All newspapers published in county.
Copy of specifications, etc., of court-house.
Copy of address delivered by Hon. A. HAND.
Album containing names in autograph of judges of the court, county officers, and members of the bar, architect and builder, and proceedings of County Commissioners as to laying stone, etc.
Copy of programme of ceremonies on this occasion.
Masonic State Register for 1882
Roster of the Thirteenth Regiment, N. G. P.
American Almanac, names of officials, etc., 1882.
Pennsylvania School Journal, May, 1882.
Autographs of Committee on Ceremony, etc.
Names of persons invited by County Commissioners.
Copy of Scranton City Directory for 1881.
Scranton Board of Trade—history, etc.
Copy of *New York Graphic*, May 22, 1879.
Sketch of Scranton, its past, present and future.
History of Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad Company.
Photograph of court-house.
History of the erection of Lackawanna County, by E. MERRIFIELD.
Engraving of first locomotive, "Stourbridge Lion."

Copy of invitation by the Bar Association to banquet, etc.

Photographs and engravings of modern locomotives and breaker-engines, machinery, etc., manufactured by the Dickson Manufacturing Company, Scranton.

History of the first locomotive placed upon a railroad in the Western hemisphere, by Col. J. A. Clarke.

Copy of General Order issued by Col. H. M. Boies announcing result of rifle-firing in Thirteenth Regiment, N. G. P., for the year 1881.

Copy of Laws and Ordinances of the City of Scranton.

Engraving of locomotive.

List of city officers.

United States postage-stamps, one of each denomination.

Brass-finished miner's lamp, by Leonard Bros.

United States coins contributed by Col. H. M. Boies: Silver dollar of 1882, trade-dollar of 1878, half-dollar of 1877, quarter-dollar of 1877, twenty-cent piece of 1875, ten-cent piece of 1875, five-cent piece of 1859, three-cent piece of 1858.

Order of Chief Marshal for procession on this occasion.

Laws and resolutions of Directors of the Poor of Providence.

Statement of resources and liabilities of Lackawanna County, January 2d, 1882; also for the year 1881.

End of steel rail, polished, from Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company.

An American flag.

List of bidders for the erection of the county court-house.

LIST OF ARTICLES FURNISHED BY THE DICKSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Three photographs of modern locomotive engines.

Engravings of passenger-locomotive engines of D., L. & W. R. R., the "Thomas Dickson" and "Moses Taylor;" consolidated locomotive, Boston and Hoosac Tunnel; switching-locomotive, D., L. & W. R. R.; mine-locomotive, D., L. & W. R. R. Co. and D. & H. Canal Co.; foundry-engine, L. Page, Albany, N. Y.; breaker-engine, D. & H. C. Co., Marvin shaft; 60x100 blooming-engine, L. I. & C. Co., blast-furnaces: 48x15 locomotive boiler, Coe F. Young, Honesdale, Pa.; safety coal-carriage, Culver's patent; vertical tubular boiler, Scranton Gas and Water Co; 22x48 winding-engines, Briggs shaft, L. I. & C. Co.; return tubular boiler, D. & H. C. Co., Weehawken; coal-cracker and breaker-rolls, S. Broadbent's patent; wrecking-derrick, Boston and Hoosac Tunnel Railway; Cornish pump, Marvin shaft, D. & H. Canal Company; plan of coal-breaker, D. & H. Canal Co.; elevation and plan of coal-breaker, D., L. & W., Avondale mines; vertical winding-engines built for South America; locomotive and passenger car-wheels, D., L. & W. and D. & H. C. Co.; mine-car axle and wheels, Broadbent's patent; ventilating-fan, Hollenback shaft, Charles Parrish & Co.; 10x10 link hoisting-engine for sinking shafts or coal-pits.

BOOKS.

Lackawanna County Court Rules and names of attorneys, members of Lackawanna bar.

Scranton City Laws and Ordinances of 1880; rules, members, and committees of Scranton City Councils for 1882.

Autographs of Scranton city officers.

Book containing a copy of deed of lot donated by the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company and others, on which to erect a county court-house, etc., and memorandum of the principal proceedings relating to the building of the court-house by County Commissioners, and a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the committee of arrangements for laying corner-stone.

Official directory, 1882, of State and county officers.

Blank county tax-duplicate.

Blank county assessment-book.

Blank county register of voters.

Package from Scranton Board of Trade containing history of organization, copy of constitution and by-laws, 1871-78; names of the officers and members of said board to present date; copy of resolutions adopted by the board on the death of Joseph H. Scranton, June 10th, 1872; copy of *New York Graphic*, May 22d, 1879, containing a sketch of the business of Scranton, with views of principal public and private buildings.

Card from W. H. Richmond, with engraving of Jersey cow.

Warrantee map of Lackawanna County.
Lithographic view of Scranton and public buildings, taken in 1882.
County Treasurer's daily statement to the County Commissioners, dated May 20, 1882.
County Treasurer's list of seated and unseated lands advertised for sale for unpaid tax for 1879 and 1880.
Copy of card invitations to members of bar by County Commissioners to attend ceremonies, etc.
Copy of card invitations to citizens from County Commissioners.
Pens, pencils, etc., etc.

NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, ETC.

Scranton Daily Republican, May 24th, 1882.
Scranton Weekly Republican, May 24th, 1882.
Scranton Daily Times, May 18th, 1882.
Scranton Weekly Times, May 24th, 1882.
Lackawanna Democrat, May 25th, 1882.
Sunday Morning Free Press, May 21st, 1882.
Sunday Morning News, April 30th, 1882.
Scranton City Journal, May 20th, 1882.
Providence Register, May 13th, 1882.
Carbondale Leader, May 19th, 1882.
Scranton Eagle, May 14th, 1882.
Carbondale Advance, May 20th, 1882.
Hyde Park Courier, May 20th, 1882.
Scranton Wochenblatt (German), May 18th, 1882.
Der Herold (German), May 11th, 1882.
Y Drych (Welsh), May 18th, 1882.
Y Gwladgarwr (Welsh), May 12th, 1882.
Y Wasg (Welsh), May 20th, 1882.
The Rushbrook Enterprise, April 19th, 1882.
The Three Links and Pythian Shield, April, '82.
St. Luke's Parish Calendar, May, 1882.
Scranton Republican Almanac, 1882.
The Law Times, May 19th, 1882.
Army and Navy (New York), May 20th, 1882.
Y Wawr (Welsh Baptist Magazine), May, 1882.

The Dedication Hymn was sung by a band of children, under the direction of Professor DERMAN:

Bringing what praise we can,
  Of all we hope for here;
Man's largest help to man,
  Youth's courage, trust, and cheer;
Yet, swept in the choral swell,
  Sprung from the grateful heart,
Song can but feebly tell,
  What help, O God, thou art.

Humbly before the scope
  Of mind's supremest power,
We plant this seed in hope,
  Trusting to pluck the flower:
Yet, swept in the choral swell,
  Sprung from the grateful heart,
Song can but feebly tell,
  What sower, God, thou art.

Labor we not in vain,
  Dowering what's here enshrined,

If the people's heart and brain,
Responsive, seek and find.
But yet in the choral swell,
Sprung from the grateful heart,
Song can but feebly tell
What giver, God, thou art.

The Right Worshipful Grand Master addressed Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master E. P. KINGSBURY, as follows:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER: It is my will and pleasure that the corner-stone of the court-house of Lackawanna County be now laid. You will announce the same to the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, that he may announce it to the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, with directions to proclaim the same to the brethren, that all present may govern themselves accordingly."

The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master in turn spoke to Right Worshipful Senor Grand Warden C. L. VAN BUSKIRK:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SENIOR GRAND WARDEN: It is the Right Worshipful Grand Master's will and pleasure that the corner-stone of the court-house of Lackawanna County be now laid. You will announce the same to the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, with directions to proclaim the same to the brethren, that all present may govern themselves accordingly."

The Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden then addressed Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden W. J. LEWIS:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN: It is the Right Worshipful Grand Master's will and pleasure that the corner-stone of the court-house of Lackawanna County be now laid. You will proclaim the same to the brethren, that all present may govern themselves accordingly."

The Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden then proclaimed:

"BRETHREN: Take notice; it is the Right Worshipful Grand Master's will and

pleasure that the corner-stone of the court-house of Lackawanna County be now laid on this site. You will therefore govern yourselves accordingly."

The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master was now addressed by the Right Worshipful Grand Master:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER: You will see that the craftsmen have well and truly prepared the corner-stone to be laid by me."

The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master at this point proceeded to the stone, taking with him the square, tested it and tried it, returned to his station, and said:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER: I find the corner-stone tried and true, trusty and square, and that the craftsmen have worked well."

Then the Right Worshipful Grand Master said:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SENIOR GRAND WARDEN, and RIGHT WORSHIPFUL JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN: You will proceed to the corner-stone while the workmen and laborers are laying it in its proper position; you will try it with the plumb, level, and square, and report to us if it is well and truly prepared.".

The grand officers proceeded as directed, and the corner-stone was lowered to its bed and placed in the proper position, after which the Junior Grand Warden tried it with the plumb, and said:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER: I find the corner-stone plumb."

He then returned to his station. Then the Senior Grand Warden tried it with the level, and said:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER: I find the corner-stone level."

The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master tried it with the square, and after returning to his station, said:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER: I find the corner-stone to be plumb, level, and square, and that the grand officers have approved the work."

Bauer's Band then struck up an air.

Then the Senior and Junior Grand Deacons proceeded to the corner-stone, the Senior Grand Deacon carrying the gavel and the Junior Grand Deacon carrying the trowel. The Right Worshipful Grand Master, preceded by the Grand Marshal and the Grand Sword-Bearer, then proceeded to the corner-stone, took the trowel from the Junior Grand Deacon, and having spread the cement, the covering-stone was fixed in its place by the workmen. He then took the gavel from the Senior Grand Deacon, and struck the stone three times therewith and returned to his station. The other grand officers followed to their places, and the Grand Master said:

"We, ASA B. STEVENS, acting for S. B. DICK, Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, declare this corner-stone to be plumb, level, and square, and so duly laid according to the ancient usages, customs, and landmarks of Freemasonry, and may the great Architect of heaven and earth bless the work here begun, and make it memorable to the latest generations."

Professor DERMAN's choir of children then sang the Invocation Hymn:

Through thy protecting care,
  Kept till the dawning,
Taught to draw near in prayer,
  Had we the warning.
O thou, great God, with thee
Gladly our souls would be
Evermore praising thee,
  God of the morning.

God of our sleeping hours,
Watch o'er us waking;
All our imperfect powers
In thine hands taking.
In us thy work fulfill,
Be with thy children still,
Those who obey thy will
Never forsaking.

The Grand Stewards at this point proceeded to the corner-stone, one bearing the vessel containing the corn, the others bearing the vessels containing the wine and the oil. They were followed by the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, with the Right Worshipful Grand Wardens, and Grand Steward C. W. Roesler handed the cornucopia to the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master. He dropped the corn on the stone, and said:

"May plenty be showered down upon the people of this ancient Commonwealth, and may the labors of the Craft be refreshed by the Great Giver of every good and perfect gift."

Grand Steward William Williamson, of Olyphant, then presented the wine to the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, who poured it on the stone, and said:

"May the health of the craftsmen employed in erecting the court-house of Lackawanna County be preserved to them, and may the Supreme Architect bless and prosper their labors."

Grand Steward A. J. Davis, of Jermyn, then presented the oil to the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, who poured it on the stone, saying:

"May the Supreme Ruler of the world vouchsafe unity, peace, and prosperity to the people of Pennsylvania and to the nations of the earth; preserve and protect the Fraternity of Freemasons; make the virtues of the Craft a lesson to the world, the labors of the Craftsmen easy, and their burdens light."

Music then followed by the band. Commissioner JACOBS then presented the architect to the Right Worshipful Grand Master, saying:

"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SIR: Let me present to you I. G. PERRY, architect of the court-house of Lackawanna County. He has his craftsmen ready for the work, and desires you to give him the designs from the trestle-board and the tools of the workmen."

The architect was then handed the tools and instructed with the work, and the song and chorus of "The Herdsman's Home" was sung by the children:

On the mountain steep and hoary,
Sounds the herdsman's evening song,
:Where the clouds in golden glory
Float the ambient tide along.:
CHORUS—La, la, la, etc.

Where the Alpine rose is blowing,
There the herdsman builds his home;
:From his couch at morning going,
With the lark he loves to roam.:
CHORUS—La, la, la, etc.

Where the mountain dark and dreary
Frowns upon the world below;
:Resting there the herdsman weary
None such sweet repose can know.:
CHORUS—La, la, la, etc.

The Grand Marshal then proclaimed:

"Silence! Silence! Silence! Brethren: Take notice that Brother ASA B. STEVENS, Right Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, and Masonic jurisdiction

thereunto belonging, has this day, at this place, laid the corner-stone of the court-house of Lackawanna County. Wisdom! Strength! Fraternity!"

The audience then joined with the chorus in singing:

With one consent let all the earth
To God their cheerful voices raise;
Glad homage pay with awful mirth,
And sing before Him songs of praise.

O enter then His temple gate
Thence to His courts devoutly press,
And still your grateful hymns repeat,
And still His name with praises bless.

At this point the Hon. Alfred Hand was introduced, and proceeded to deliver the following oration:

My Fellow-Citizens: It would have been appropriate to prepare for this important occasion a history and some of the characteristics of our laws, but in the ten minutes allotted me by your Committee of Arrangements, I can only give briefly a Tribute to the Jurisprudence of Pennsylvania.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has to-day a system of laws as wise, as just, and as finished as the world has ever seen. Her civil jurisprudence is linked to the wisdom and experience of the ages. It has gathered into its folds principles from Sinai, Rome, Runnymede, and Bunker Hill. Righteousness, philosophy, personal rights, and independence are stones in its foundation-walls. Political equality rests upon all her citizens. Her criminal code is as perfect as human ingenuity and research have been able to formulate. Her principles of equity are applied to the smallest as well as the largest transactions of life in which human interests are at stake. Her administration of justice is

comparatively inexpensive, free from intricacy, and, with exceptional and unavoidable cases, speedy. "Right and justice are administered without sale, denial, or delay."

We meet here to-day to dedicate this building to LAW and JUSTICE, solely and exclusively. In honoring these, this great concourse of all classes and divers organizations does honor to itself. Religion is interested in this structure, but we do not rear it to religion. Science is interested, but we raise it not to science; art, but we build it not to art; social and civic life, but we erect it not to these. Business is interested, but we place no tribute to business on its walls. The fireside is interested in these corridors, from the infant drawing life from its mother's breast, to the old man tottering on his staff, but they are not dedicated to the family. But to that which regulates human conduct in all departments—LAW—and that which judges thereof—JUSTICE—we build a temple, grand in proportions and beautiful in design.

Next to that science which treats of the relations of God to man, is that which comprehends and considers the relations of man to man. Yonder church-spires point man to Almighty God for eternal life; the spire which shall surmount this stone points man to God for the regulation of this mortal life. Next to the church is the temple of Justice—next in dignity, next in usefulness, next in honor. Does the Almighty appear at the altar or sanctuary, so does he appear at the place of judgment; for it is written, "Ye judge not for man, but for Jehovah, who is with you in the judgment." To law and justice we elevate these monumental walls and towers. Law is inseparable from motion or existence. It is written on the universe. There is no speech nor language where its voice is not heard. On the stars of heaven, on the comets whirling through space, on the rocks of

the mountains, on the dew-drop flashing in the sunbeam, on the sunbeam coloring the dew-drop, we read the testimony to law. All living creatures are under law. Man alone, in his relation to man, seems without law, until he begins to govern himself. The Creator appears to have decreed that man shall make and enforce his own law for his own conduct, responsible to the Almighty for the mandate and the obedience. In this effort to enact "the rule commanding what is right and prohibiting what is wrong," our own Commonwealth stands high among the States of the world. Our law preserves the good of the past; retains the old, not because it is old, but because it is good. We glory in our common law. Christianity is a part of it. We do equity under the forms of law. We sacrifice not justice to form, protect the officer and citizen, place high responsibility on executive, judge, and legislator, hold them responsible for their trust, and in the administration of that trust make them secure. While we give large liberty to the people and make much of personal rights, we at the same time protect them from their own folly in times of excitement. It has always been the aim of our law-makers and judges to bring law and justice together in theoretical and practical harmony. Our civil law attests success in this direction. Our criminal law is profound and philosophical. It meets, as might be expected, greater obstacles in the investigation and punishment of crimes. To protect the innocent we, at times, screen the guilty. It needs always a just, discriminating, and upright people. Would that I had the power to impress upon the mind of every citizen of this county a proper view of the noble attribute of Justice. Justice springs from the bosom of the Almighty, is strong for good, terrible to evil, full of blessing, security, and health to the State and society. Justice sweeps away all subterfuges, disregards all false apologies, knows no passion or prejudice, entrenches herself

in exact truth, honesty, and intelligence. Justice has no maudlin sympathy for evil-doers, falsely called mercy; no disgusting sentiment of licentiousness, falsely called liberty. Justice stands erect in fair proportions, honorably clad with no blush of shame for her acts. She comes forth to-day and says, in clear and truthful tones, that sympathy for crime is cruelty to the State. The ancients represented justice as blind, holding the scales even. She is blind to parties, blind to passion and everything except truth. She begs us never to pluck the bandage from her eyes nor disturb the even balance of her scales.

As we stand here to-day, holding in our minds the picture of this edifice as it will be, imagination brings to view the relation it will sustain to the people of this county. Before this single tribunal, which, under our economy, embraces all legal questions; what scenes of human welfare and human woe will be enacted; what fortunes saved and fortunes destroyed; what hopes elevated and blasted! Homes will be cheered and made desolate, truth maintained, and falsehood exposed, reputations vindicated and lost; peace will come to some and unrest to others; the sacred relation of marriage will be protected and also sundered. Here will be brought, as from a rough and troubled sea, the conflicts, passions, and selfishness of the political arena; here the quiet, stern mandate of the law shall say, "Peace, be still," when the people, mindful of the respect due to their own tribunals, with serene dignity, will submit and return to the calm of ordinary life. Here will come up for adjudication the rights of persons and the rights of things; all those interests that relate to personal security, personal liberty, and private property; to magistrates, the legislature, to the people at large in their organized capacity; matters civil and military; all the relations of master and servant, husband and wife, parent and child, guardian and

ward, the rights and duties of artificial persons, bodies politic and corporate. Here will be resolved the intricacies of real-estate, their tenures, the law of their descent and alienation. Here will be redressed private wrongs calling into action all the machinery of courts of justice in their different divisions of common pleas, orphans' court, and equity, with all the multiplicity of suits and pleadings which once made men immortal, but which are now so simplified that it is quite as hard to blunder successfully as to plead scientifically. Here will be investigated and punished public wrongs which test the framework of society; offenses against God and religion, officers and government, public justice, peace, trade, health, and economy, with the long catalogue of crimes from homicide to misdemeanors. Here will be pronounced that sentence which is heaven's estimate of human life, and tells a man that he is not fit to live, because he has despised God-given life in another—that sentence which no just law will ever repeal or reverse, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

What power for good in its silent influence has such a building as this? Well may it call together such an expression from the people as we witness here to-day. Not alone in the active judgments rendered within these walls do we find the people's estimate of right and abhorrence of evil, but in that greater, more sublime, more eloquent tribute to justice which comes from the voluntary obedience of the people. Law is best honored in silent, unresisting obedience to her behests. As this corner-stone holds secure for centuries yet to come, the evidence of to-day's progress, so our jurisprudence, unique in its combinations, holds the wisdom and principles of to-day, gathered in all the past, to be handed down unimpaired and venerable to the generations yet unborn. This corner-stone, placed at the seat of justice for this

newest county of the Commonwealth, allies us to the wisdom of the past, and gives hope in the onward progress of civilization. This is akin to those historical events, which in their significance have themselves been termed corner-stones of liberty and truth. Here and there in the great conflict between right and wrong, truth and error, we find sacred spots wet with human blood and tears, where some great principle was maintained and right secured. We here, in harmony and gladness, make sacred this spot on which this stone rests, assuring ourselves and the world that within the lines which comprise this county, justice shall be upheld and private and public rights protected. This building, completed as designed, from foundation-stone to turret-pinnacle, is a fit emblem of our jurisprudence. In the long years that are passed in the history of our own and our mother-county, we have dug deep through the muck and mire and tangled roots of human pride, prejudice, and ignorance to lay a foundation for our judicial system upon the primal rocks and stable support of truth and justice; we have builded course after course until our progress has lifted us into the sunlight of a pure atmosphere. On this we have raised a fair structure of equal rights and balanced powers that has called forth admiration and honor, and at the same time points to a higher and nobler state of perfection. We have our institutions preserved to us in wonderful purity and power. On no part of this globe are human rights more accurately adjusted with less friction or cause of complaint than on Pennsylvania soil. On no soil are wicked combinations against the peace of society more surely broken up, nor the judgments of courts and juries more universally just and unimpeachable. Our laws and their administration are as nearly perfect as human nature has yet been able to attain unto. Our machinery is well constructed,

ready for perfect action and proper results, and as intelligence, temperance, and integrity pervade the people, so will the dishonoring criticisms which are occasionally made, wholly vanish and disappear. On the true instincts of the people, enlightened by experience and strengthened by knowledge and integrity, all security and peace of society rest. We hold the titles to our homes, protection to life, property, and reputation at the disposal of the twelve historic jurymen drawn from the people. When they are wise, educated, and upright, we are safe; when prejudice, passion, ignorance, or recklessness characterize the trial by jury, it loses its honored place in our jurisprudence, and individual rights and safety are gone. May the honored progress of our citizens in all that is noble and lofty, and their respect for the institutions of law and justice that have been handed down to us from our forefathers, preserve this county among those noted for order, thrift, and happiness.

At the close of Judge HAND's address, Grand Chaplain R. W. VAN SCHOICK pronounced the benediction, thus concluding the ceremonies of the fraternity, and, after music by Bauer's Band, the spectators dispersed. The ceremonies were very impressive throughout, and attracted earnest attention.

The following is the history prepared by E. MERRIFIELD, Esq., at the request of the County Commissioners, and deposited in the corner-stone:

The County of Lackawanna is the outgrowth of an agitation that continued for nearly forty years. It is the fourth county that has been taken from territory originally embraced in Luzerne. In 1839, JOSEPH GRIFFIN, of Providence Township, was elected to the

House of Representatives, being the first to occupy that position from the Lackawanna District. At that time the question of dividing Luzerne and creating a county out of the north-eastern portion began to assume a serious aspect, and became a disturbing element in local politics. The opponents of the measure dealt a serious blow, when, in 1842, they consented to the creation of the new county of Wyoming. But this did not serve to quell the agitation, as in 1843 it was made an issue, and WILLIAM MERRIFIELD, of Hyde Park, was elected to the Legislature, and continued for three successive terms. At the session of 1844, he succeeded in passing through the House of Representatives the first bill for the creation of Lackawanna County. WILLIAM S. ROSS, of Wilkes-Barre, then Senator from the district, made a fierce and desperate opposition, which resulted in its defeat by a tie vote. In 1852 A. B. DUNNING was sent to the Legislature upon the same issue, and continued the two following years. Several times, by a very flattering vote, he passed the bill through the House, but CHARLES R. BUCKALEW, then Senator from the district, occupied a very prominent and influential position, and defeated it by a bare majority. In 1857, through the influence of BUCKALEW, and directly as the result of the agitation of the Lackawanna County project, came the amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the erection of new counties without being first submitted to the voters of the entire county. This was intended as a fatal blow to the project—in fact, proved such for the time being—yet it did not stop the clamor of the new-county advocates. In 1863, JACOB ROBINSON and PETER WALSH, then members of the House of Representatives, passed a bill submitting to the voters of Luzerne the question of the erection of a new county, to be called Lackawanna. The election was duly held, and resulted in its defeat

by about 3,000 majority. This proved a quietus to new-county talk for more than five years. In 1870, however, our people were again actively interesting themselves in behalf of the project, and a bill was before the Legislature for most of the sessions down to the final passage of the enabling act of 1878. The beginning of dawn in the great fight was in 1873, when, in the Constitutional Convention, LEWIS PUGHE and A. B. DUNNING, members thereof, labored so zealously in its interest. Especially is it due to the able and convincing speech of Mr. PUGHE that the objectionable feature which required a submission to the vote of the whole county was defeated.

Under the provisions of the new Constitution, all special legislation being prohibited, it became necessary to pass a bill that would not only be operative for one, but for all sections of the State, and during the sessions of 1875, '76, and '77 our people were co-operating with other interests to secure the enactment of such a law; especially during 1876, F. W. GUNSTER then being a member of the House from Scranton, and occupying a prominent and influential position, there was a spirited and determined effort made. The fact, however, that it antagonized so many of the different counties, provoked a fight that was not only formidable, but irresistible. Our thoughts and energies were then directed to the question as to whether or not a bill could be framed that would meet the exigencies of the case, and escape such general opposition. At a meeting of the Scranton Bar during the winter of 1878 the matter was duly considered and the writer deputed to draft an act in accordance therewith. This was forwarded and read in place by JAMES O. KIERSTED, member of the House of Representatives from Scranton. On the 17th of April, 1878, it became a law, and under which the new County of Lackawanna was ushered into being.

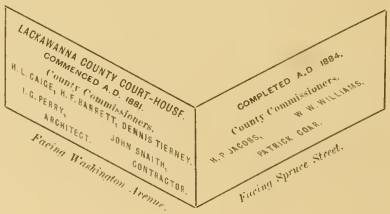
The fight for the passage of the bill was interesting and exciting. With Mr. KIERSTED was D. M. JONES, his colleague, who were ably assisted by A. I. ACKERLY and JOHN B. SMITH, representing other sections of Luzerne, and GEORGE B. SEAMANS, Senator from the district. Among those who devoted a large portion of their time at Harrisburg in behalf of the project were E. N. WILLARD, R. H. MCKUNE, F. W. GUNSTER, F. L. HITCHCOCK, J. E. BARRETT, and E. MERRIFIELD, aided from time to time by B. H. THROOP, GEORGE SANDERSON, A. H. WINTON, LEWIS PUGHE, H. S. PIERCE, J. A. SCRANTON, U. G. SCHOONMAKER, CORYDON H. WELLS, and JOHN H. POWELL. *The Scranton Republican*, very able in the advocacy, was for weeks placed upon the desks of the members, and had much to do in creating a favorable sentiment. After the contest had progressed for quite a length of time, with varying prospects, but without substantial progress, a meeting was held in the city of Scranton, which was the pivotal point, and the result of which finally led to triumph. The soldiers upon the battle-ground had been continually hampered from want of necessary means. Aside from the liberal action taken by the Scranton Board of Trade, the subscriptions had been comparatively small, and now had come a time when princely contributions were a necessity. It must either be a plethoric treasury or a graceful retirement from the field. The major part of the opulent citizens of Scranton were singularly apathetic and indifferent to the necessities of the case. At this juncture EDWARD N. WILLARD, ARETUS H. WINTON, and myself were so fortunate as to call in council BENJAMIN H. THROOP, GEORGE SANDERSON, WILLIAM W. WINTON, and HORATIO S. PIERCE, who succeeded in talking each other into such a commendable spirit of liberality as led to an adequate supply of the sinews of war, and without which there would not have been a new county.

On the 17th of April, 1878, in accordance with the requirements of the act, there was filed in the office of the Secretary of Internal Affairs at Harrisburg a petition, it being the initiatory step under the terms of the law for the erection of the County of Lackawanna; whereupon William Griffis, of Bradford County; David Summers, of Susquehanna, and R. H. Saunders, of Philadelphia, were appointed commissioners, who, after the requisite investigation, on the 25th of June, 1878, made report recommending the erection of said county. On the 8th of July following, Governor John F. Hartranft issued a proclamation ordering that an election be held in the proposed district August 13, 1878. There were cast 9,615 votes in favor and 1,986 against the new county, being a majority of 7,629 votes in favor thereof. A proclamation by the Governor, dated August 21, 1878, declared the said county established.

The result, so one-sided in its final showing, was brought about after a most thorough and exciting canvass. The friends of the measure vied with each other in working heartily and faithfully for success, hence it would be impossible, in a brief historical sketch, to give all the names. Besides the gentlemen heretofore named as friends of the cause, William N. Monies, I. H. Burns, Mayor T. V. Powderly, Cornelius Smith, R. W. Archbald, J. R. Thomas, John F. Connolly, J. B. Collings, F. Johnson, and George Allen were particularly active and influential in contributing to the result. In the evening the victory was celebrated in a brilliant and never-to-be-forgotten manner. Lackawanna Avenue was illuminated from one end to the other. Bells were ringing, bonfires roared, the cannon thundered, and thousands of people going from house to house singing and shouting their glad notes of triumph, formed a pageant that would have done honor to any cause that ever claimed the prowess of knight or hero.

By virtue of the power conferred under the law, the Governor commissioned the following-named gentlemen as officers of the county: F. L. Hitchcock, Prothonotary; A. B. Stevens, Sheriff; J. R. Thomas, Clerk of the Courts; A. Miner Renshaw, Recorder; J. L. Lee, Register of Wills; F. W. Gunster, District-Attorney; E. J. Lynott, Auditor; James Lynch, Eugene Snyder, Jury Commissioners; William N. Monies, Treasurer; Horace F. Barrett, Henry L. Gaige, Dennis Tierney, County Commissioners.

At the same time Benjamin F. Bentley was commissioned as President Judge, but by a writ of mandamus issued by the Supreme Court at the instance of A. A. Chase, the said appointment was declared illegal, and on the 24th day of October, 1878, the several courts of the county were organized by Hon. Garrick M. Harding, President Judge, Hon. John Handley and Hon. W. H. Stanton, Additional Law Judges. At the Fall election of 1878 W. J. Lewis and P. M. Moffitt were elected Associate Judges of the county. There was elected at the same time a full set of county officers, but by a decision of the Supreme Court, it was held that the same was premature, hence the first election of county officials by the people took place on the 4th day of November, 1879.



The Banquet.

PURSUANT to a call, a meeting of the members of the Bar of Lackawanna County and the citizens who were active in the new-county movement, was held on the evening of May 16th. E. Merrifield, Esq., was chosen President, and A. H. Winton, Secretary. After a free exchange of opinions in regard to the advisability of having further proceedings than those designated by the Commissioners, on motion of Hon. F. W. Gunster, seconded by Dr. B. H. Throop, it was resolved that on the evening of May 25th a banquet should be held. It was further resolved that a committee of ten be appointed, with the President as *ex-officio* chairman, to make the necessary arrangements for said banquet. The following persons were chosen as such committee: Dr. B. H. Throop, E. N. Willard, Esq., Hon. R. H. McKune, Hon. F. W. Gunster, Hon. F. D. Collins, John F. Connolly, Esq., I. H. Burns, Esq., Hon. Lewis Pughe, and Hon. D. M. Jones.

At a subsequent meeting the following persons were chosen to act on the several committees:

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

R. H. McKUNE, J. H. CAMPBELL, R. W. ARCHBALD, W. T. SMITH, GEORGE FISHER.

COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION.

DR. B. H. THROOP, E. N. WILLARD, H. A. KNAPP.

COMMITTEE ON TOASTS.

F. W. GUNSTER, DR. B. H. THROOP, A. H. WINTON, F. D. COLLINS, U. G. SCHOONMAKER.

COMMITTEE ON INVITATIONS.

LEWIS PUGHE, H. M. EDWARDS, J. F. CONNOLLY, T. V. POWDERLY, C. SMITH.

COMMITTEE ON RECEPTION.

H. S. PIERCE, W. W. WINTON, D. W. CONNOLLY, E. B. STURGES, J. B. COLLINGS.

COMMITTEE ON TICKETS.

E. C. FULLER, THOMAS BARROWMAN, G. S. HORN, J. ALTON DAVIS, VICTOR KOCH, THOMAS F. WELLS, JOHN F. SCRAGG.

The following invitation was issued to persons residing out of the city:

You are respectfully invited to a
Grand Banquet,
given under the auspices of the
Scranton Bar Association, and Citizens,
in honor of the erection of the County of Lackawanna, and the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New Court-House,
to be held on the evening of May 25th, at the Wyoming House.

Scranton, Pa., May 18, 1882.

The following is the programme of toasts:

PRESIDENT OF THE EVENING, . . . DR. B. H. THROOP.
TOAST-MASTER, ... H. H. WINTON.

1. LACKAWANNA COUNTY, ... Labor omnia vincit
EDWARD MERRIFIELD, ESQ.
2. OUR INVITED FRIENDS AND GUESTS, . . . We welcome them
HON. G. M. HARDING.
3. OUR COUNTRY, ... One and indivisible
HON. J. A. SCRANTON.
4. OUR COMMONWEALTH, ... The Keystone of the arch
HIS EXCELLENCY HENRY M. HOYT.
5. THE PULPIT, ... The light of the world
REV. DR. J. E. SMITH.
6. OUR MILITARY, . The pride of our State—May we never need their prowess
COL. H. M. BOIES.
7. THE JUDICIARY, ... The purer the better
HON. F. D. COLLINS.
8. THE SENIOR BAR, ... Old men for counsel
HON. GEORGE SANDERSON.
9. THE JUNIOR BAR, ... Lis sub judice
JOHN F. CONNOLLY, ESQ.
10. OUR CONSTITUTION, ... The stepping-stone to our new county
HON. A. B. DUNNING.
11. OUR MANUFACTURING INTERESTS, . . . By industry we thrive
W. W. SCRANTON.
12. THE PRESS, ... The lever that moves the world
HON. J. E. BARRETT.
13. OUR CITY, ... The third in the Commonwealth
E. P. KINGSBURY.
14. OUR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, ... Made prosperous by energy
THOMAS H. DALE.
15. OUR FIRE-DEPARTMENT, ... Nunquam non paratus
HON. ROBERT H. MCKUNE.
16. OLD COUNTIES, FAREWELL, ... The transplanted oak
JOHN BEAUMONT COLLINGS.
17. OUR ABSENT FRIENDS, ... Though absent, to memory dear
COL. J. A. PRICE.
18. THE LADIES, ... Omnia vincit amor
F. J. FITZSIMMONS.

The following gentlemen were present, and partook of the festivities of the occasion:

W. W. Winton,	Scranton.	Dr. B. H. Throop,	Scranton.
Hon. C. E. Rice,	Wilkes-Barre.	Selden T. Scranton,	Oxford, N. J.
Hon. William H. Jessup,	Montrose.	Col. Charles Scranton,	"
Hon. P. M. Moffitt,	Carbondale.	Hon. Stanley Woodward,	Wilkes-Barre.
Hon. A. I. Ackerley,	Abington.	Hon. J. B. Van Bergen,	Carbondale.
Isaac Price,	Philadelphia.	Hon. D. R. Grant,	Binghamton.
J. J. Williams,	Archbald.	T. N. Eldridge,	Owego, N. Y.
I. G. Perry,	Binghamton.	J. C. Delaney,	Harrisburg,
John Snaith,	Ithaca, N. Y.	H. C. Jessup,	Montrose.
John Jermyn,	Jermyn.	H. L. Gaige,	Moscow.
Thomas R. Lathrope,	Carbondale.	Horace F. Barrett,	Schultzville.
Thomas Johnson,	Milwaukee.	Hon. Alfred Hand,	Scranton.
Hon. F. W. Gunster,	Scranton.	Hon. Lewis Pughe,	"
Hon. D. M. Jones,	"	Edward Merrifield,	"
Hon. A. B. Dunning,	"	A. H. Winton,	"
Hon. L. Amerman,	"	Hon. J. E. Barrett,	"
Col. Ira Tripp,	"	Col. H. M. Boies,	"
Col. Geo. Sanderson, Jr.,	"	John F. Connolly,	"
Col. U. G. Schoonmaker,	"	Henry Jacobs,	"
W. W. Scranton,	"	W. W. Williams,	"
E. C. Fuller,	"	Dr. H. I. Jones,	"
Thomas Barrowman,	"	Patrick Coar,	"
H. S. Pierce,	"	Elhanan Smith,	"
George Fisher,	"	L. A. Watres,	"
W. T. Smith,	"	Joseph Godfrey,	"
Henry Belin, Jr.,	"	H. A. Kingsbury,	"
George Jessup,	"	R. W. Archbald,	"
H. H. Coston,	"	H. M. Edwards,	"
E. P. Kingsbury,	"	H. A. Knapp,	"
J. E. Carmalt,	"	Henry Sommers,	"
C. H. Welles,	"	Henry Battin,	"
I. H. Burns,	"	Dr. W. H. Pier,	"
F. J. Fitzsimmons,	"	M. H. Dale,	"
Thomas H. Dale,	"	H. D. Hinsdell,	"
E. B. Sturges,	"	Victor Koch,	"
Dr. R. A. Squire,	"	Reese G. Brooks,	"
B. E. Leonard,	"	William Keiser,	"
P. J. Horan,	"	F. J. Johnson,	"
Dr. L. Wehlau,	"	Dr. A. E. Burr,	"
H. Wehrum,	"	S. Samter,	"
John Tomlinson,	"	C. W. McKinney,	"
Dr. Thomas Stewart,	"	L. L. Eaton,	"
C. R. Pitcher,	"	A. McNulty,	"
R. T. McCabe,	"	John B. Collings,	"
J. J. Flanigan,	"	Robert Reese,	"
John F. Scragg,	"	J. M. Everhart,	"
John Benore,	"	W. McDaniels,	"
J. D. Knight,	"	John Morris,	"
D. F. Kearney,	"	Thomas Stewart, Jr.,	"
H. D. Moses,	"	C. E. Pryor,	"
Henry Morton,	"	George Throop,	"
B. A. Hill,	"	H. H. Yeager,	"
J. H. Campbell,	"	Robert H. McKune,	"

MENU

Clams.

LITTLE NECK.

Soup.

MOCK TURTLE.

Fish.

BAKED KENNEBECK SALMON—*Sherry-Wine Sauce.*
BOILED SHEEP'S-HEAD—*Anchovy Sauce.*

Removes.

SPRING CHICKEN—*Broiled.*
SADDLE OF SPRING LAMB—*Mint Sauce.*

Entrees.

SWEETBREADS—*Braise, with Mushrooms.*
ASPARAGUS ON TOAST. DEVILED CRABS.

Vegetables.

ASPARAGUS. PEAS. STRING-BEANS.
NEW BERMUDA POTATOES.

Dessert.

CHARLOTTE RUSSE.
ICE-CREAM—*Harlequin Brick.*
FRUITS—*Assortes Cafe.*
CAKES—*Assorted.*

At 8 o'clock the guests began to assemble at the Wyoming House, filling the corridors and parlors. The Committee of Reception was active in receiving and welcoming all, while from Bauer's orchestra came strains of pleasant melodies, filling the house with the sweetest music. The dining-hall was tastefully adorned with flags of all nations. At the side of each plate was laid a copy of the programme, the *menu*, and a button-hole bouquet. After full justice had been done to the *menu*, prepared by Mr. JOHN MCCABE, and which, with one accord, all pronounced most excellent, Dr. B. H. THROOP, the president of the evening, announced that, as the inner man had been satisfied, the time had arrived for the commencement of festivities, and requested A. H. WINTON, Esq., to proceed with the programme.

A. H. WINTON, toast-master, said:

GENTLEMEN OF THE BAR, FELLOW-CITIZENS, AND INVITED GUESTS: On the night of our great voting-contest among ourselves, when immense majorities came pouring in from all directions, and assuring us that the proposed new county of Lackawanna was carried almost unanimously, the roaring artillery, the clanging bells, and the glad shouts of a long-suffering but then delighted multitude, only feebly expressed our joy at the consummation of our most darling wishes.

Then came the law's delays in the way of surveys, proclamations of our Governor, appointment of new court officers, and finally the establishment of our new courts; and yet we had not, to our satisfaction, sufficiently expressed or celebrated the glorious fruition of our hopes.

To-day and now, however, we have the opportunity, with our new and magnificent court-house started, and its corner-stone this day "well and duly laid," in spite of the dripping skies, and now that "all the clouds that lour'd upon our house are in the deep bosom of the ocean buried," and we are gathered about this festive board to voice our exuberant joy in the most rational manner, I proceed to invite you to a "feast of reason and a flow of soul." And it is peculiarly proper upon this happy occasion that one whose revered ancestor began our work nearly half a century ago, and who himself was ever zealous in our behalf with pen and purse, and who has been especially honored by his selection as the proper person to write the history of the struggle for our new county, this day deposited in the corner-stone, to go down to future ages, should be first called upon, and for these reasons we will now drink our first toast,

LACKAWANNA COUNTY,

and call upon EDWARD MERRIFIELD, Esq., to respond.

Mr. Merrifield spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: In the hurry of getting ready, and the assistance I have been called to render in preparing for this banquet, I have been unable to make the needed preparation to occupy the honored position assigned by the committee, and which the intelligence and high character of this assemblage demands.

I first began to hear of a proposed new county when I was at the knee of my devoted father. Ever since I could comprehend anything of politics, I recollect of the agitation for Lackawanna County, and it is not surprising when I grew to man's estate that I felt an interest, and as time rolled on that interest became more and more intense, until its final and glorious consummation. I speak of my early recollections, and this is but one of the many vivid and interesting incidents that come flashing upon me to-night. When I first used to hear the words "Lackawanna County," I lived across the river, on yonder Hyde Park hill. Two or three stores, two country taverns, and a dozen or fifteen private homes, was all to mark the spot that is now the home of so many thousands of thrifty and enterprising people. I looked across on this side, now dotted over with elegant residences and magnificent business streets that would do honor to any city, and saw nothing but forest and occasional meadow. The old saw- and grist-mills, and the few farm-houses that distinguished this as Slocum Hollow, were shut out from sight by the tall trees that waved above them. Truly, what a change has but little more than forty years brought about! In the early days of the attempt to get an act for the establishment of a new county, this spot was not thought of as the county town, and if the bill had succeeded in its passage in 1844, Providence would undoubt-

edly have been the county seat of Lackawanna County. (*Applause.*) Is it not wonderful, then, when we look around and see the changes which so short a time has wrought?

My knowledge, therefore, of this contest is coextensive with its beginning, and it makes me feel that age is making its inroads, yet I am not so very old. I have an indistinct recollection that allows me to refer to a more ancient period; indeed, I think I can even go back to the day when the Democratic party was respectable. (*Laughter.*) Excuse this allusion, as it came unbidden, and without any intention to introduce any political fire-brands.

It was in 1839 that the agitation for the establishment of Lackawanna County out of the northern portion of Luzerne took practical shape, and it was kept up with untiring energy and never-ceasing vigilance until the summer of 1878 marked the date of its final triumph. Our friends at Wilkes-Barre were loath to let us go; they loved us so well—too well. They fought and fought, until we found out how they fought; until we went down to Harrisburg with such an array of facts, and such substantial reasons for a division, that their opposition could no longer avail. I regret that time forbids going more into detail in connection with this interesting contest, but there are two points, gentlemen, upon which I wish to dilate. I believe I know something about Lackawanna County and its establishment, and you will pardon me, therefore, for referring to two occasions and the actors therein, which, in my judgment, led to final success. You will recollect in 1857, when our friends at Wilkes-Barre, who loved us so much—and it is well that some of them are here to-night. I am glad to see them—we are all glad. They represent the learning and dignity, both socially and politically, of our great mother-county. (*Applause.*) I am glad that the time has so soon come when we can sit down socially as we do to-night and shake hands over the

bloody chasm. (*Applause.*) I was going to say that in 1857 they thought they had us fixed. Through the influence of Senator Charles R. Buckalew, a provision was engrafted on the Constitution which forbade the establishment of any new county without first being voted upon by the electors of the whole county. Well, of course, it did settle the question, until the people of this section, in their wisdom, saw fit to send such men as Lewis Pughe and A. B. Dunning (*applause*) to the Constitutional Convention, which assembled in 1873, and who lifted this barrier, it is hoped, forever. (*Applause.*) This was a very important step, for without it we could not have had Lackawanna County. These gentlemen are entitled to everlasting gratitude for the manner in which they represented the people in that convention, and advocated their interests. (*Applause.*) By their ability and eloquence they banished from the Constitution that objectionable provision which required a vote throughout the whole county; hence it became the stepping-stone to the triumph of the cause we now celebrate.

I am sorry that my limited time forbids a more complete notice of what transpired during the session at which the new-county bill became a law. There were our members, Messrs. Kiersted and Jones, devoting their best energies, and doing all that men could do in behalf of the project. There was Major Ackerly, known and respected as the farmer of the delegation. He was active and influential, never failing to secure a point that was thought to be available. Senator George B. Seamans, although not a resident of our new-county territory, was always at his post, battling manfully in our behalf. All these gentlemen showed themselves worthy of their constituency, and I believe will ever receive that just modicum of praise due to a faithful performance of duty.

I now come to the other point which I wish to emphasize. In 1878 I was importuned to go to Harrisburg in the interest of Lackawanna County. I had been there for seven weary winters, a member of the third house (*applause*)—and, I trust, a respectable member. I happened there in 1863, when WALSH and ROBINSON passed the bill which was voted upon by the whole county and defeated. I say I was there more or less for seven sessions, and long enough to begin to get my eyes open. I began to learn how it was that our Wilkes-Barre friends could come down, and in the twinkling of an eye, as it were, defeat a whole winter's hard work (*laughter*), and I determined not to go again, unless I could occupy the same plane, and be fully armed and equipped. Well, the end of the session was approaching and nothing was happening; the bill didn't get along—it didn't even get a first reading. When it was found that the bill didn't move, a meeting was called. I come here to-night to speak the truth of history; I am here to give credit to the men who got Lackawanna County. (*Applause.*) Nobody responded to this call but W. W. WINTON, H. S. PIERCE, B. H. THROOP, GEORGE SANDERSON, E. N. WILLARD, A. H. WINTON—and I was there, of course. (*Applause.*) We then and there planned for ways and means, and with such abundant success that Mr. WILLARD and I posted off to Harrisburg, and it wasn't a great while before that bill began to see the light of day. Do not infer from what I am saying that we attempted or practiced any bribery. I distinctly and unequivocally say before this assemblage that such was not the case. But there are a thousand ways in which a well-filled pocket-book becomes the most effective arm of service. We had to be social, (*applause*), besides there were many things to be done which it is unnecessary to speak of here, even if I had the time. The result was, our measure became a success. I do not wish to

detract at all from the interest that was taken by so many of our citizens in this bill—I do not wish to take away the credit that is due to all those who labored so earnestly in its behalf. But I do say that, had it not been for the liberality of the men I have just mentioned, there never would have been a Lackawanna County.

It is unfortunate that we can't go to the Legislature upon the merits of a question simply, and succeed, but in this it seems we could not; and the time had come in the progress of this city when we wanted a county—when we wanted a court—when it became inconvenient for fifty odd thousand people to travel forty miles every time they had a little assault-and-battery case. And the time had come, too, when we had to look this question squarely in the face. We looked at it—at least these men did —and the consequence was the final consummation of our wishes.

I never for a moment blamed the people of Wilkes-Barre for fighting this question. Men are governed by their essential interests everywhere. We in Scranton, if it were possible to cut off a county, would undoubtedly fight. That is but the natural sequence of things. I am glad to say, however, that toward the last of the contest many of the best citizens of Wilkes-Barre conceded the necessity of the establishment of a new county. I am proud to say that the gentlemen here to-night to represent our sister-city were of those who admitted that the old county should be divided. (*Prolonged applause.*) Perhaps it was because the unruly member had become bulky and troublesome, offering oblations that were sometimes distasteful. I will not attempt to divine the reason why they were willing to make the sacrifice, but choose to believe rather that it was the justice of the cause that prompted such men as Governor Hoyt, Colonel Dorrance, Judge Harding, and others to lift their heavy hands.

After we had got the bill through and the supplemental proceedings well under way, then came another fight, and you will all recollect it. Some pugnacious opponents thought to balk our efforts by a suit in equity, and put us in the mill of interminable litigation; but it didn't work, thanks to the vigilance of the attorneys whom we were so fortunate as to engage in our behalf. And in this connection let us do credit to the distinguished gentleman who occupied the bench as President Judge at the time of this attempted outrage; at least, I desire to add my tribute of respect to the stability and pluck of GARRICK M. HARDING for the manner in which he performed his duty as against the direct interest of the people among whom he lived. When the question came before him in which he could have blasted our hopes by stopping the proceedings, he had the manhood and independence to permit no unjust delays, but to stand up and decide it according to law. (*Applause.*)

After that was disposed of, and the time for the election drew nigh, there came up an unexpected and desperate contest in our own midst, and a big fight it was. True, we had a majority of over seven thousand in favor of the new county; but very few of our people ever understood the difficulty or comprehended the great amount of labor that was thrust upon us in order to accomplish this result. There were influences at work that were not generally known, to defeat the issue. I could tell all about it, but it is unnecessary to speak of them to-night. There were falsehoods set afloat, and schemes of opposition, which, if they had not been counteracted by the closest attention and unceasing work, would have defeated us even then. But, thanks to the well-timed efforts of those business and professional men, and last, but not least, to the active exertions of the laboring-men of Lackawanna Valley, who showed such

a just appreciation of their interest in our local welfare, the opponents were defeated, and it was carried triumphantly before the people.

On the evening of the day on which this grand result was consummated, there was a spontaneous ebullition of feeling that caused the heavens to be lit up as with noonday sunbeams, and made night joyous with the shouts of the victors; but this is the first opportunity we have had to give proper expression to our feelings and to our gratification at the result of this forty-years' fight. Our old mother-county is still there, just as prosperous; her sons and daughters just as happy; and, although shorn of part of her territory, still grand in her proportions. We will never cease to respect her, nor to do reverence to her great names, that have done honor to our courts and adorn our State archives. Let us hope that we may never do aught to sever the ties of friendship with those whom we have so long been associated.

To-day the corner-stone has been laid to our temple of justice. I trust and pray that that grand building will never have its walls vilified or insulted by a betrayal of justice. (*Applause.*) I trust that court-house, which I hope may stand for ages, will be a fitting monument to the work that has been done by the friends, most of whom I see around me here, for the establishment of this, the last-created, but the fifth in importance, of the counties of this great Commonwealth. (*Prolonged applause.*)

Music—"La Favorite."

Mr. WINTON—Governor HARTRANFT, a man who contributed largely to our cause. We have a letter from him, which Colonel GEORGE SANDERSON, Jr., will proceed to read.

Colonel SANDERSON—At the request of Mr. MERRIFIELD,

I wrote to Governor HARTRANFT, extending him an invitation to be present this evening, and received this letter, which I am sure will interest all present:

CUSTOM HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA,
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, May 21, 1882.

MY DEAR COLONEL: I have your very kind letter of the 19th inst., inviting me to be present at the laying of the corner-stone of the new court-house in Scranton.

It would afford me great pleasure to accept your invitation, and I should certainly do so if it were possible for me to be so far from home on Thursday.

As I cannot attend in person, I beg you to assure the Bar Association of my sincere regret. I had the privilege of assisting at the birth of the new county, and have ever since had reason to be proud of my part of the work. Now that the first steps are taking to provide a permanent dwelling-place for Justice in Lackawanna, I feel that the future of the infant is secured.

I therefore give joy to all concerned in the coming festivities, and sincerely hope that the temple about to be erected may ensure to this and succeeding generations the blessings of liberty, good order, and prosperity in abundant measure.

With renewed expressions of my regret in declining your invitation, believe me, Colonel,

Sincerely yours,
J. F. HARTRANFT.

Colonel GEORGE SANDERSON, Jr.

Three cheers for Major-General HARTRANFT were called for, and given with a will.

Mr. WINTON—We have also another letter from Hon.

H. G. Jones, of Philadelphia. As it is in a sort of foreign language, I call upon H. M. Edwards to read the same.

Mr. Edwards—I will allow the gentlemen present to find out how foreign this language is. As far as I can understand it, it is all in English, and the only sentence not in English is a great improvement upon that language. (*Applause.*)

Philadelphia, May 23, 1882.

To the Secretary of the Scranton Bar Association, etc., Scranton, Pa.:

Dear Sir: I have this day received your invitation to attend the grand banquet to be given under the auspices of the Scranton Bar Association and citizens on the evening of May 25th, at the Wyoming House, in honor of the erection of the County of Lackawanna and the laying of the corner-stone of the new court-house. I regret very much that my duties here will prevent my acceptance of your kind invitation. It would give me great pleasure to join with you in such a celebration. When your bill for a new county was introduced in the Legislature, I was its advocate from first to last, and I beg you to say so to the citizens of Lackawanna who may meet to celebrate the event for which you congregate.

Tell my Welsh friends that I hope ever to adhere to the grand doctrine of our ancestors, "Y Gwir yn Erbyn y Byd."

I remain, very truly, your friend,

HORATIO GATES JONES.

Mr. Winton—I have another letter, which you will be glad to hear.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 22, 1882.

Gentlemen: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to be present at a banquet to be given on the

event of laying the corner-stone of your court-house on the 25th inst. I shall endeavor to be present, but as an auditor and partaker only.

Yours, very truly,

D. L. RHONE.

To Scranton Bar Association.

I have one or two other letters, which will appear in another place. And now that Mr. MERRIFIELD has somewhat taken from me something I had intended to say about the Hon. Judge HARDING, I will just add this to the other things he spoke of, that we really never captured Wilkes-Barre until we captured the Court. We sent down Hon. LEWIS PUGHE, and somehow he captured a paper. I used to parade it in the newspaper every morning, and when we captured the Court, we captured Judge RHONE and Hon. T. H. B. LEWIS, and by and by General MCCARTNEY, and by and by many more fell into our work, and while we haven't Judge HARDING here, we will call upon Judge STANLEY WOODWARD to respond to the toast,

OUR INVITED GUESTS.

(*Prolonged Applause.*)

Mr. WOODWARD—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: This is a day for congratulation, and I have thought while sitting here that I would begin at the beginning, and would congratulate the people and bar of

Lackawanna County, not only upon the present condition and prospect of the county, but also upon the happy auspices under which it first saw the light. Fortunately for me, my duty in that respect has been anticipated by my learned friend, Mr. Merrifield. But it must be evident to all that from his remarks that the birth of Lackawanna County was virtuous and pure. (*Applause.*) It came in wedlock, and was not born out of wedlock. No dishonesty was used to produce Lackawanna County, but, on the contrary, it was the outgrowth of public sentiment, yet stimulated by public and private means. Therefore, I congratulate you upon the glory of your beginning. (*Applause.*)

When I received from the Commissioners of the county my first invitation to be present to-day at the laying of the corner-stone of your new court-house, something was said about Luzerne County being the mother-county. And the use of this term suggested to my mind several ideas, and one of these ideas was this: that it was rather strange that the people of Lackawanna County should call upon Luzerne as their mother to rejoice with them to-day or to-night. Why? You call upon us to congratulate not only you, but ourselves, upon the breaking-up of the family. You left the family and went out to seek your own fortunes. We were not in favor of peaceable secession, but were thorough Union men. You were opposed to union, and you have succeeded. I can't say it was an elopement. In the first place you did not go off and join yourself to somebody else; you didn't hitch yourself upon some other county. It was a peaceable secession—an independent one. In the second place, as I understand it, you didn't go off suddenly or by night, or without notice (*applause*), and it was not an elopement, therefore, in any sense. We received, from time to time, notice of your going before you went (*applause and laughter*),

and, from time to time, we put sprags in the progress of your departure, until we ran out of sprags. (*Laughter and applause.*)

But as the mother-county, if I may be so bold as to represent to any extent her sentiments to-night, I say to you that we *do* congratulate you. (*Applause.*) We feel as proud of you as a natural mother feels when the boys and the girls do well.

A new court-house, such as you are going to build, is an emblem and a type of your perseverance and your pluck. I understand it is built on a swamp, a sort of swamp-angel, but I hear, also, it is founded upon a rock, and is going to rise above the mists and miasma, with healing upon its wings. And perhaps a court-house, more than any other structure, does represent the civilization and morals of a community. It speaks for law, and order, and justice, and is a fair expression and exponent of the culture and thrift of the people who build it.

The goddess who holds the scales of justice should have a shrine worthy of her purity and suitable for her purposes. If she is to keep the balances and hold any equipoise, her eyes must be kept clear of dust, her lungs well fed with pure air, and her sense of smell unoffended by the incense of unclean odors.

There can be no rivalry and nothing but friendship between Lackawanna County and Luzerne County. (*Applause.*) Our great veins of anthracite run more nearly north and south than east and west, and therefore we may always work in our great source of wealth on the same line. If it were otherwise, if our veins lay east and west, across instead of along our pathway, we should always be blasting at the same breasts, and should finally blow ourselves up. As it is, we can work in harmony. Your Lackawanna River flows peacefully and quietly into our Susquehanna, and notwithstanding the fact that they have different sources and different names, they flow at last to the one great

ocean. And so Lackawanna County and Luzerne County, divided in name, different in origin, bounded by different lines, are still moving onward with one purpose and to one destiny, the proudest territorial portion of the Keystone State. (*Prolonged applause.*)

Mr. Winton—There is only one thing I would like to add to the remarks of the learned Judge. He forgot to say that when we broke up the late partnership we were entirely satisfied to leave the firm with all the assets remaining with old Luzerne, in the shape of a handsome court-house and public buildings.

Now, I have a letter from his Excellency, or from his right-hand bower, which I will read:

Harrisburg, May 23, 1882.

Gentlemen: As the Governor is at present confined to the house and unable to personally conduct any correspondence, he directs me to acknowledge for him the receipt of your very kind invitation to attend the banquet on the evening of the 25th inst., in honor of the erection of the County of Lackawanna and laying the corner-stone of the new court-house, and express his regrets that his illness will prevent the otherwise great pleasure of accepting your hospitality.

He desires me to add further his sentiments: That in the proper fulness of time, Lackawanna County was organized with the full sympathy of the citizens of old Luzerne. You are to be congratulated on the vigor of the new organization and the integrity with which all your departments have been formed and maintained, and in the future will have nothing but good-will

and sympathy to expect from your old neighbors in the lower end.

I have the honor to sign myself, on behalf of his Excellency,

Your very obedient servant,

C. N. FARR, *Private Secretary.*

To Scranton Bar Association.

Mr. WINTON—In the absence of his Excellency, Judge RICE has very kindly agreed to respond to the toast,

OUR COMMONWEALTH.

Judge RICE—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: When I received your very kind invitation to attend this most enjoyable gathering, I accepted without hesitation. That invitation was accompanied by no suggestion that any remarks or speech would be required from me. You may imagine, then, my chagrin when, this evening, I was informed that I would be called upon to respond to this particular toast. I worried through this enjoyable banquet, however, with considerable comfort, having the assurance that there would be no bill of exceptions or writ of error, and no stenographer. But just at the last moment this gentleman appeared with his paper and with his pencils, and then my trouble began. I wish to say to him that our stenographer is pretty thoroughly trained to look after the punctuation and the capitals, and to correct all bad grammar. It would probably be fortunate for us if he were authorized to correct the bad law. (*Applause.*) Whether your stenographer has reached that high point of success, I do not know. I sincerely trust so.

Now this is a very broad subject, "The Commonwealth." That is, on any ordinary occasion it would seem like a broad

subject, and yet upon this occasion, in this gathering, in this presence, and with this justifiable feeling of exultation, it seems like a very small affair, compared with the County of Lackawanna.

If I were to attempt to speak of the great mineral wealth of Pennsylvania, which places her in the front rank of the States, perhaps at the highest rank, I should say no more than what every school-boy knows. If I were to speak of her great agricultural resources, and of her soil capable of producing all, and in as great abundance as can be produced in this broad continent, I should say what you well know. And if I should speak of her people as containing and representing the happy means of all peoples of these United States, it would seem like self-praise. In his essay on the Seventeen Townships, Governor Hoyt has summed up the chief cause which Pennsylvanians have for just pride of their Commonwealth; and, speaking in his place, it is quite appropriate that I should use what he has so well said: "That the Quaker man, the German man, the Scotch-Irish man, and the Yankee man (transfused, it is true, by the blood of men speaking all tongues), by their attrition and interaction have, in mighty material energies, in charities, in schools, in churches, and freedom of conscience, created the most highly-civilized Republic that has ever existed on the earth—our own free Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. *Esto perpetua.*"

But, before I conclude, will you permit me to say just a word in regard to the erection of this new county? Now, it has been truly suggested here that if old Luzerne had had her way, it is quite possible there would have been no County of Lackawanna to-night. This agitation extended over a long period of years, long before my time. I found it raging high when I first knew the County of Luzerne. For a long time there was,

undoubtedly, an honest difference of opinion, an honest difference of judgment as to the wisdom, as to the propriety, and as to the necessity of dividing this great territory into two smaller parcels. Following that, there was self-interest which stood in the way and prevented its division for many years, and this self-interest was, in later years, assisted by pride, and a feeling of regret that this little empire in itself should be divided up in two smaller empires.

There were many motives which existed in opposition to the division of the new county, but at last it came, as it had to come, as it must come. And now that it is done, now that it is an accomplished fact, we cannot, from old Luzerne, say we are glad, because we are not glad. We should still feel proud to think that you were within our own boundaries, that you were still a part of our own possession, and that you were still not separated from us by even an imaginary line of a new county. (*Applause.*)

And yet I believe I am expressing the honest sentiment of Luzerne when I say that we believe that you succeeded in this division because it was just and right that you should succeed. (*Applause.*) I thank you very kindly, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, for your kind invitation to be present here to-night, and I heartily join my congratulations with your rejoicing. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Winton—Now, gentlemen, there is one man, the Hon. J. A. Scranton, our member of Congress, we would like to hear, but he is away. I have no letter. He is trying to make the Susquehanna River navigable. When he gets through with that, I hope he will tackle the Lackawanna, so we can easily steam

up to Carbondale and see those men who voted with us on the new county; and in his absence the next toast,

OUR SISTER-COUNTIES AND OUR COUNTRY,

will be responded to by the Hon. W. H. JESSUP.

Judge JESSUP—

Mr. PRESIDENT: If my friend, Judge RICE, thinks that "The Commonwealth" is a very broad subject to engage your attention, what must be my feelings when called to respond, not only to all the counties, but to our common country? (*Laughter.*)

Why, I feel, Mr. Chairman, very much as that good lady who removed to the West expressed herself when, at the first broody clucking of her hen in the spring, she surrounded her with three or four dozen eggs and said to her, "Now, old hen, you came West, and this is a growing community, and you must spread yourself." (*Applause and laughter.*)

But what is a country? It is not the inanimate rock, it is not the black diamonds that lie buried in your valleys; it is not the ore in your hills, the precious metals in your mountains, nor the gold in their sands. Your country and my country are the men and women that adorn it. (*Applause.*) Look upon yon uninhabited island, and it is no country. It is mind, it is intellect, brain-power, that make a country; and to make that country one and indivisible, that intellect, that brain-power must be fully developed in the right direction, and it is to that point I desire for a moment to call your attention. The development of the men and women of the country makes the country. This, our beloved country, created on the principle of freedom of conscience, baptized in the blood of martyrs, growing strong in its very infancy and almost springing into mature manhood, in-

creasing beyond the nations in former ages, and coming, in its first century, into a second baptism of fire and blood, because forgetful of the principles upon which it was founded, has come forth now pure, now tried in the furnace, and purified as by fire. (*Applause.*) And as our country is composed of men, so, my fellow-citizens, the future of our country depends upon you and upon me. It will be what we and others like us, its citizens, make it. Do we wish a country lasting? Let us remember the foundation-stones. Let us build upon the triple base of Purity, Patriotism, and Virtue, and we may build a tower which shall grow, and grow, and grow, until the ages grow gray and hoary, and it shall still grow onward and upward. No storms shall uproot it, and no tempests shall cause it to totter. (*Applause.*) But when we forget the foundation-stones, when political impurity and corruption shall be gnawing like a canker-worm at the basis of our institutions, when fraud and corruption shall stalk abroad in high places, when impurity shall pervade our private and social circles, when justice shall lie prostrate in our streets, then look to see the glorious tower of our liberty totter and fall, and we be numbered with the nations of the distant past, whose monuments are warnings to us of their ruin, and among whose sepulchres we are to-day excavating and bringing to light the foundations whereupon they builded, and seeing by what means they fell.

Let us learn the lessons of the past. Let us have a strong desire to preserve our institutions; let us be men of purity, men of justice, men of virtue, and we may hope to see our country a pure, and a happy, and a lasting one. (*Applause.*)

The President moved three cheers, which were given.

Music—"Star-Spangled Banner."

Mr. Winton—There is one thing that you and I and all of us regret, and that is the absence of the person who was to respond to the toast, "The Pulpit." He who was to respond to this toast is one of our most eloquent ministers; a man we delight to hear, a man who talks about the jewelry of heaven, the stars, spheres, diamonds, flowers, and all of those pretty things. He is with us in heart, and desired to be here in person. He promised to come, but unfortunately an accident occurred, and I will read his letter:

Scranton, Pa., May 24, 1882.

A. H. Winton, Esq.:

My Dear Sir: I little thought, when you were here last evening, that I should be compelled to decline your kind invitation to respond to a toast to-morrow evening, through physical disability. Such, however, is the fact. Yesterday I somehow sprained my foot. When you were here it was paining me, but I thought it would pass off. To-day, however, I have been compelled to call a physician, and have been in bed all day. It will, I fear, be some days before I will be able to venture out. I sincerely thank you and the committee for the honor you did me, and I assure you of my regret at not being able to comply with your request. Very sincerely and faithfully yours,

J. E. SMITH.

Now, I have looked around for some one pious enough to represent him, and I have been unable to find any one; therefore, I call upon the band for a hymn. (*Laughter.*)

Music—Anthem.

Mr. Wixton—The next toast is,

OUR MILITARY,

"the pride of our State—may we never need their prowess." I presume that refers to the old song,

> "We'll have no fighting men abroad,
> No weeping maids at home."

Colonel H. M. Boies—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I never was called upon to respond to so warlike a toast in so solemn a frame of mind as I am after listening to this anthem. Nor was I ever called up before in the presence of so many judges, and I sincerely trust I never may be again. I don't propose to spread myself all over the military question of the country to-night. I suppose, perhaps, it was intended I should limit myself to the National Guard of the State of Pennsylvania (*applause*), which has become in these later years renowned, not only in our own State, but all over the country, for the perfection of its organization, for the completeness of its equipment, and for the excellence of its drill. And perhaps, to narrow the subject down a little more, I might confine myself more particularly to that part of it which stands, we are all proud to feel, in the very front of the National Guard of Pennsylvania; that part of it which is comprehended within the limits of our own county. (*Applause.*) I say this with all deference to our Wilkes-Barre friends, who are present as our guests. In listening to what has been said in regard to the tremendous struggle which preceded the organization and birth of Lackawanna County, a struggle which lasted through forty years, the length of time the children of Israel wandered in the desert,

during which a whole generation of men wasted themselves away in the painful effort to achieve success in vain, my mind reverted to the time of the organization of the Scranton City Guard. And there is a very significant fact in this connection. After all this vain struggle and this waste of resources which has been referred to, it was not until the City of Scranton, by her courageous mayor and those historic forty men, quenched the incipient fires of communism in our streets; it was not until Scranton had demonstrated to the State that she was able to take care of herself, and, moreover, had proved conclusively by the formation of the Scranton City Guard that she intended to take care of herself in the future; it was not until this time that the Legislature of our State was influenced to grant our petition. (*Applause.*)

As soon as our organization had been formed—and I want to call your attention to this fact—gentlemen began to come up here from Luzerne to look over the Scranton City Guard—Major Espy, Major-General Osborne, at that time the chief military dignatary of this section, and our honorable friend, Judge Woodward, who was then nothing but a colonel, I believe (*applause*); and it is a remarkable fact that after they had been here the opposition to the new-county project began to weaken. What report they took back, unless it was that of the emissaries that Moses sent out to view the promised land, that they had seen the sons of Anak there, and verily we were as grasshoppers in their eyes, and so we were in our own eyes. (*Laughter.*) Whether they took back this report or not, I cannot say, but it is certain when the project next came before the Legislature our opponents appeared to have become suddenly very weak-kneed and inefficient, and Lackawanna County sprang into existence perfect, complete, and full-armed, like Minerva from the head of Jove.

Now, this leads me back to the original thought with which

I started, and that is that the object, and aim, and scope of the National Guard is towards the triumphs of peace, and not of war. The influences which the Scranton City Guard had upon the formation of the new county were silent and unobserved, but they were powerful and irresistible as those magic influences of nature, which are now bursting the seed and swelling the branch, but with a force sufficient for rending the eternal rocks asunder. We have listened to-day with delight to the grand and eloquent panegyric which our honored Judge HAND has delivered upon the majesty and dignity of the law. But the wisest law, the ablest administration of the law is vain, and weak, and powerless as the wind, unless there stands behind the law an ever-present, palpable, and sufficient power to execute it. And it is this that is the sphere of the National Guard. It is not only its sphere, its scope, and its plan, but it is at the same time its weakness, for as it exists to maintain peace and order, its very success destroys the apparent necessity for its existence, when war's alarm is shaking the land, when our country's government is trembling against the advance of the foe, there is scarcely "a man with soul so dead" who does not feel the fire of patriotism burning in his breast, and is not inspired to deeds of valor; but in time of peace, when there is no apparent necessity for military organization, it is a difficult thing to bring men up and keep them up to that point of patriotism which is necessary to sustain the National Guard, and I wish to impress this upon your minds, because there are many here to-night who are largely employers of men of my command. Now, if we can get these men into the National Guard and induce them, by inspiring their patriotic motives, to devote the time and labor that is necessary to sustain it, we should by all means do so. Because at the present time there seems no necessity for this service, encourage them in every way

to devote the time that is necessary to discharge their duty rather than restrain them from devoting this time to it.

The greatest benefit the National Guard can bestow upon this community, and upon the State, and upon the country is the prevention of the evils which we dread. Therefore, it should be sustained, and therefore I appeal to you to sustain it in the future as you have in the past. (*Applause.*)

The President called for three cheers for the National Guard, which were lustily given.

Mr. WINTON—Right here is a good place to read a letter from one of our most prominent major-generals. We seem to have plenty of judges and officers all about us for an occasion of this kind, and if he were here we would be delighted with one of his usual eloquent speeches; but in his absence the best we can do is to read his letter.

WILKES-BARRE, 25th May, 1882.

GENTLEMEN:

Please accept my warmest acknowledgments for your kind invitation to the banquet given under the auspices of the Scranton Bar Association and citizens, in honor of the erection of the County of Lackawanna and the laying of the corner-stone of the new court-house.

I am sorry to be obliged to say that, owing to business engagements made before your invitation was received, and which I cannot now postpone, I am obliged to be absent, and thus deny myself the pleasure and profit that will flow from the occasion.

Trusting in your forbearance, I must beg to be excused.

With pleasant recollections of past associations with your peo-

ple, and earnest wishes for their future happiness and the prosperity of your county and city,

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

E. S. OSBORNE.

To Committee of Arrangements.

Mr. WINTON—Gentlemen, we all sincerely regret the absence of Hon. F. D. COLLINS, who stood by us in the State Senate, and who, while in Congress, labored for the advancement of our interests for the purpose of establishing a United States Court either at Scranton or Wilkes-Barre. He was to speak upon the toast of "The Judiciary," a very important subject. In the absence of Hon. F. D. COLLINS, Judge HAND has agreed to respond to the toast,

OUR JUDICIARY.

Judge ALFRED HAND—

Mr. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: I thought stones enough had been hurled at me to-day to excuse me to-night from the pebbles of criticism which you fire at me on this occasion.

Great waves sweep down small ripples, and I thought of this to-night as I recurred to the fight for the new county, and remembered, when the great wave of a new county swept over us in 1863, it swept down many differences. It was the first time I learned how good a man a Democrat could be. (The speaker placed his hand on Hon. A. B. DUNNING.) They say politics makes strange bed-fellows. This new-county question put Brother DUNNING and me in the same bed many a night. When

I looked at some of the returns from townships stumped by us and saw how light a vote was returned from some of them against us, I thought we had done something for the new county.

I rejoice to-night to see our friends from old Luzerne, and if there is one pride I have, it is that I can hand down to my children a document—a commission, from the great State of Pennsylvania, making me first a Judge over the old county. (*Applause.*) And I wish to say here that during twenty years of experience and intercourse with gentlemen from the lower end, I never had anything but courtesy and kindness from the bench and bar and people. (*Applause.*)

I am called upon to-night to respond to a weighty subject—"The Judiciary." I have responded to this subject several times before; I have treated it historically and æsthetically, and in every manner I can think of except in the manner of avoirdupois, and I propose to speak upon that subject to-night.

If you will read the history of our mother-country, you will find they began at the weight of about three hundred. I was in Chicago not long ago, and they lacked a judge. A friend of mine told me they had adopted a new rule. They took a four-foot measure, and measured the man across the hips, to get a candidate for judge. I told him I thought on that score he stood a very good chance to get the position. It would seem a rather singular way of selecting judges, but I don't know but it is all right, for Grant took *Waite* into consideration when he wanted to supply a Chief-Justice of the United States. That rule, allow me to say, as I look at Brother Rice and myself, has become obsolete. (*Laughter and applause.*) "The Judiciary." They generally speak for themselves, and their judgment generally stands (*applause*), especially in the Common Pleas, where they make the law for the State. Sometimes there is a difference of opinion on

that subject, and we have to change our own views. But when we think of the judiciary of Pennsylvania, I am surprised that they amount to so much, when they have to spread themselves over so large a space and make themselves so thin on every subject. In other countries, and in some of our States, the law is so great a subject that they have divided it up, and given one judge one subject and another another. But we are economical in Pennsylvania. We spread our judges over the whole area of law, and equity, and crime, and everything that comes into court. As has often been said, we find, when we take the position, that the sentence we pronounce upon others is our own condition—"Separate and solitary confinement at hard labor."

The position of a judge is peculiar. As I have sat on the bench for a few years, I have changed my opinion. I thought the judge had to be a learned man; I have changed my mind somewhat. Sometimes the judge must know nothing. (*Applause.*) The reason of that is, if a judge knows too much, the brief will have to be shortened. He must hear the commonest principles argued before him as if he were a tyro. Why? It is all right; we don't complain. The youngest members must earn their fees. It is necessary, to let their clients see they have gone to the foundation in every case they have. I was reminded of this, and I gained great comfort when I read the history of Lord Ellenborough. When sitting on the bench one day, a lawyer came in to speak on the subject of real-estate. He commenced: "Your Lordship, a fee simple is the highest estate known to the laws of England." His Lordship said, "Hand me a pencil; let me put that down: 'A . fee . simple . is . the . highest . estate . known . to . the . laws . of . England.' Sir, the Court is much indebted to you for the information."

A judge has to stand between two fires, always two parties—two

lawyers, at least. He has to stand between truth on the one side and truth on the other (*laughter*), and falsehood on the one side and falsehood on the other, and decide between them. (*Laughter.*) He has to stand between man and man; he has to stand between sued and suitor, and, as I remarked the other night, in responding to this toast, I had one bulwark I could fall back upon when I made what was supposed to be a mistake—and no judge ever decides a case but what he makes a mistake on one side. He can't satisfy both lawyers and both parties. When my learned brethren of the bar come to me and want to know how I decided against them, and how I disregarded this and that authority, what could I say? except to fall back upon some general principle, and I have found this solution: There is a principle in equity that wherein the law is deficient equity comes in. Sometimes both law and equity are deficient; then the judge steps in. I commend this to my Brothers Rice and Woodward.

Gentlemen, I haven't anything more to say to-night except to say that the judiciary of Pennsylvania stands, both in the higher court and in the lower court, as a class, as high as any class of judges in the world. (*Applause.*) And it needs only a careful study of our reports, to see the learned decisions of our higher court, and the learned decisions of our lower courts, to substantiate what I say. And I say to you now, and to the people at large, trust your judges until you find they are not worthy of trust, and then impeach them.

Mr. Winton—We also regret the absence of one of our most-esteemed citizens, one who stood ever ready with purse and advice to assist us; I mean the Hon. George Sanderson, who has been referred to here as one of our abettors and aiders in this new-county movement. In

the absence of Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Elhanan Smith has agreed to respond in behalf of the

SENIOR BAR.

Mr. Smith—

Mr. Chairman: I am under no necessity of making an apology for what passes in my mind. I had the opportunity of attending this banquet, and I have been very much amused by the remarks of the different gentlemen, and especially by my friend, Mr. Merrifield. When the gentleman started out, I was apprehensive that he was going to mar this evening's entertainment by referring to the Democratic party. I am not going back to the dark ages to seek to discover when first it was "the Democratic party was respectable," but I thought the gentleman might have extended his remarks sufficiently to comment upon the present, when the Republican party are nursing twins. (*Applause and laughter.*) They claim that one of them is illegitimate; which one it is, I know not!

In speaking of the new County of Lackawanna and the old County of Luzerne, we are reminded they have long been familiar names with us. Old Luzerne has been recognized for half a century as the empire of the Commonwealth, and, as has been remarked by Judge Woodward, they held on to Lackawanna for some time; and the labor-pains of the old county were long, but at last she yielded, and her young daughter has now outgrown the mother. She has increased in population until she can look down and say, "Mother, you are somewhat debilitated." And yet mother Luzerne manifests a kind of imperial dignity over her queenly daughter.

I am not going to detain you with extended remarks. It is merely my opportunity, in the absence of the gentleman who

was to address you upon this subject, to speak of the members of the bar, and to the members of the bar. The members of the bar of Lackawanna County, while they acknowledge they are of old Luzerne, have a high mark to attain and to emulate. They must recollect that the County of Luzerne has for many years been noted for the ablest bar of the State. She points with pride to a MALLORY, a CONYNGHAM, and her WOODWARDS, and others, whose names and reputations are safe for posterity. (*Applause.*) They passed away leaving a national fame, but their immediate descendants are still there—able men. I say to the bar of Lackawanna County, Your mark is set high if you ever expect to rival the legal talent of Luzerne County. Encourage among yourselves friendly feelings, associate yourselves with that tie that treats the court with honor; deport yourselves as gentlemen, always remembering no court is honored except where there is a strong bar, which will correct a judge's failings in the end, by an honest desire to arrive at truth, justice, and right. Courts require an able bar, and they should endeavor to deal with great subjects as the times require.

You boast of being the third city in the State, and you claim having this day laid the corner-stone for the noblest court-house in the State. You may make it as grand as possible, but the machinery for that "Temple of Justice" is to be the judges and the lawyers. That tribunal is to deal with life, liberty, and property, and it requires men to be there in whom the people have confidence. And I would say to my brother-members of the bar, Never by word or sign allow yourselves to speak disrespectfully of your brother-members, and maintain and uphold the purity and dignity of your courts and judges. (*Applause.*)

Mr. WINTON—Attached to the next toast you will

discover some Latin. It don't exactly mean the great unhatched—it means as if the junior bar were held under advisement. In response to that toast I call upon one of our most promising young attorneys, whose clarion tones are heard daily in our courts, Mr. JOHN F. CONNOLLY. (*Applause.*)

Mr. CONNOLLY—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: I hardly consider it proper that a member of the bar should be called upon to respond to this toast. You all know, if there is any failing in the world that lawyers have, particularly the younger ones, it is to be egotistical. And I am afraid that the member of the bar called upon to respond to this toast is liable to fall into this error, hence I think the person who responds to it should be very guarded in his remarks. I would say, as far as the junior bar of Lackawanna County is concerned, that it is second to none in the State—in size. (*Laughter and applause.*) Many of the young gentlemen who are classed among the junior members of the bar are men of great learning and ability—I am touching upon the egotistical part now. If any of the rising towns out West are short of lawyers, all they have to do is to call upon the bar of Lackawanna County, and we will honor their draft, with either young or old.

It is true, as has been remarked by Judge HAND, that sometimes the junior members of the bar are somewhat impulsive. It is also very annoying for the Court to listen to the simplest principles and propositions of law they learned in their early days, advanced by the juniors with eloquence and vehemence. But the argus-eye of the watchful client is on the budding counselor, and he must do his duty—his whole duty. But, you must understand, the young members of the bar are eager to earn

a fee. They are anxious to make a reputation and satisfy their clients, and in nine cases out of ten the class of clients who employ young attorneys are satisfied if they only "spread themselves." (*Applause.*)

It reminds me of a little anecdote I once heard. A young man, who was about to let the mantle of his father, who was an old lawyer, fall upon him, began to ask his sire what he should do in case certain things occurred. He says, "For instance, if *law* is on my side and *justice* is against me, what shall I do?" "Why," said his father, "advocate the majesty and maintenance of the *law*, though the heavens fall." "But," says he, "father, suppose *justice* is upon my side and the *law* against me, what shall I do?" "Why," he says, "argue in favor of justice, though it cause a revolution." "But," he says, "suppose neither *law* nor *justice* is upon my side, what shall I do?" "Well," he says, "paw the air and talk around it."

That, gentlemen, is the unfortunate condition the junior members of the bar are placed in. They are generally given the cases in which they must do the "pawing" and "talking around," while the cunning old seniors look on and laugh, and never, for an instant, think of the time when they were juniors. Just where the "line of demarkation"—as the lawyers put it—is drawn between the junior and the senior members of the bar, is more than I can tell.

Now, considerable has been said here, and said with truth, about the bar of old Luzerne. That it stood foremost among the bars of the State of Pennsylvania is, as I understand it, a conceded fact. Some of the ablest jurists that Pennsylvania ever boasted of, were members of the Luzerne bar, and I am proud to say that all the senior members of the Scranton bar, and a great many of the juniors, once belonged to, and yet, at times, grace that bar with their presence. (*Applause.*)

I regret that some member of the senior bar, who is not a comparative stranger among us, did not respond to the preceding toast. The gentleman who eloquently responded has been here but a short time, and the task of answering for the seniors should not have been imposed upon him. Yet he did it so well, I feel that I must thank him in their name.

It is no easy matter to become a lawyer. It may be an easy matter for a young man with an ordinary education and ordinary ability, to be admitted to the bar. But there is a good deal of difference between being admitted to the bar and becoming a lawyer. The young man who starts out in life with the idea of getting admitted to the bar and stopping there, falls very far short of reaching the mark. The young lawyer who proposes to succeed in his profession, must be incessant in his labors, and he must be a man of ability. His work may be compared to that of the clock. It must be work without *haste*, work without *rest*. Unless he does that—unless he works without *haste* and works without *rest*—he will never attain to that pinnacle of fame to which many of the senior members of the old Luzerne bar have attained. (*Applause.*)

On behalf of the bar of Lackawanna County, although they are quite numerous, I will say we have among them men of ability, men of energy, and, above all, men of integrity. (*Applause.*)

A man who has not integrity, his ability amounts to nothing as a lawyer, because if a man is not truthful and honest—honest to himself, honest to his clients, honest to the Court—he never *can*, he never *will*, succeed as a lawyer. (*Applause.*) I may say for the young men of the bar that they must generally bear all the rebukes and rebuffs of the Court, and when there is any "sitting-down-upon" to be done by the Court, it generally falls to

the unhappy lot of the unfortunate junior, whose client is waiting and listening in some prominent part of the court-room, ready to seal his doom, unless he comes up to said client's fancied standard. And all the while the young man is quoting "horn-book" law, and the Court is incensed.

I say it with pardonable pride, that the junior—and I might include a majority of the senior—bar of Lackawanna County are straightforward, honest, honorable men. Their escutcheon is as yet unblemished and untarnished, and I trust it will remain so, and in that temple of Justice, the corner-stone of which was laid to-day, may they carve their way to fame and fortune. And in a few years I trust that the bar of Lackawanna County may not only be the first in Pennsylvania, but the first in the Union.

Mr. Winton—Nearly nine years ago I stood in the city of Philadelphia, in the hall of that convention composed of constitutional tinkers, and sitting there I heard two men advocate Lackawanna County. It was the day when Lewis Pughe and A. B. Dunning made their famous speeches in our behalf. (*Applause.*) Looking with eyes toward the future, I was satisfied that that was the stepping-stone, and I said, "Oh! my prophetic soul, mine uncle!" (*Laughter and applause.*)

And now, to respond to the toast of

Our Constitution,

I call upon a man who has held the laboring-oar for thirty years, A. B. Dunning. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Dunning—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I feel a pride to-night in meeting my old associates in this new-county fight that I am sure I will be unable to express. After the many speeches we have heard, and the manner in which this whole question has been discussed, I feel as though there was no ground for me to stand upon. In fact, my friend Merrifield carried the fortress in the outset. (*Applause.*) But, gentlemen, I never saw the hour during the last thirty-five years that I was not a new-county man. Now that is a good ways back. Thirty years ago I was elected to the Legislature, a young man, and the only reason I consented to be a candidate, leaving my business and going to the Legislature for $3 a day—that was the sum-total paid, and if you staid over 100 days, you got $1.50, and no more—was because of the interest I felt in Lackawanna County. I had been familiar with the fight from its inception. I remember well when it was raised, and William Merrifield, the father of the gentleman who introduced the topic here to-night, was elected to the Legislature, and nearly gave us a county. I don't propose to say much about what was done by our friends in the lower end at that time, but the defeat of the measure was one of the smart things they did. But, taking the thing all the way along, step by step, I look around me to-night and see gentlemen who stood shoulder to shoulder with me in the Legislature and elsewhere giving material aid. Dr. Throop spent two entire winters there, giving most valuable assistance. I was fortunate enough always to pass the bill in the House, and recollect, the second time it was passed, we had so strong an assurance that it was going through the Senate that my friend Throop, in the full confidence that the thing was accomplished, gave what you may call a little blow-out. He gave a banquet to

the friends of the bill that cost him two or three hundred dollars, thus showing the interest he felt on the subject. But I cannot enumerate the many who have given years of service and means to this long-continued struggle. None among them all, however, were more liberal than Dr. Throop and Col. Ira Tripp, both of whom have kept open house at Harrisburg entire sessions, and their well-known liberality tells the story, so far as expense goes. "All is well that ends well." The struggle is over, and we meet here to-night to shake hands over the bloodless chasm, old and new-county friends to rejoice together. I have the most kindly recollections of old mother Luzerne, and many of her worthy sons are bidding us God-speed in our departure from the old hearth-stone.

The lateness of the hour admonishes me to be brief. I will, therefore, come at once to the toast—"The Constitution, the stepping-stone to the new county." I need not tell you, gentlemen, that constitutions are the fundamental principles or rules for the government of States or nations, dating back many centuries, finding especial voice in *Magna Charta*, when the English Barons in the thirteenth century forced from King John the great charter restraining monarchy and enlarging the rights of the people against kingly tyranny; that *Magna Charta* found its way across the mighty deep in the *Mayflower*, its principles taking root in the virgin soil on this side of the Atlantic, growing and spreading until it culminated in the sanguinary struggle of the Revolution, which gave to us the Constitution of 1788, being the first charter of human liberty ever given to an absolutely free people; nor how, in the progress of events, like the rapidly-growing boy, the people became too large for their clothes, and Uncle Samuel's pants were found so short that in 1837–38 it required material for a larger pattern.

Good Uncle Samuel, finding himself and family so well-dressed in the new suit, felt an inspiration for greater deeds and broader enterprise. A forward movement is ordered along the line. Coal is mined, canals were dug, railroads constructed, factories were built, forges and furnaces, from their thousand stacks, sent their leaping flames toward the heavens, and the busy hum of industry filled the land with joyful sounds.

But history repeats itself. In 1873 the fashions were found so changed that the garment must be revised, and, "Eureka!" In one of the pockets, safely tucked away, is found our *Magna Charta*, inscribed "Lackawanna County," the corner-stone of whose temple of Justice was laid to-day, or, possibly, it may be the "stepping-stone" referred to in the toast to which I am attempting to respond.

Now, gentlemen, I fear I have already wearied you, and, knowing you are anxious to listen to the gentlemen who are to follow me, without dwelling upon our long-continued struggle before success crowned our efforts, our hopes, our fears, or speaking of the treason of pretended friends, or after, how the heart was made sick by hope deferred, the object of our efforts so near at times, and, ah! so far, I will close by returning my sincere thanks for your kindness in recognizing me as one of the humble workers in the cause we all had so much at heart.

Music—Overture, "Aurora."

Mr. Winton—There is one man here among us who seems to like Wilkes-Barre, and has some cases down there. I will now ask him to speak to the toast,

OUR MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

Mr. W. W. Scranton—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: When the new county was first talked about, they came to me and said it was a great thing for manufacturing interests. They said law was going to be cheap. I have tried it a good deal since then, but I think they made a mistake in that.

Now, I don't hold myself as a great many do about the town, but it seems to me that this community is based principally upon the mining of coal—half of it depends upon it. Now these mines are being worked out more and more, and, in my mind, it is not going to be forever. It will not be one hundred years before these are all worked out. To me it seems that a great many of us here are going to live to see the time when the growth of this town, so far as it depends upon mining, is not going to increase. When that time comes, we have got to fall back upon something else. It seems to me that we ought to provide for that beforehand, and provide, as far as possible, for our manufacturing interests. For that, we want good government; we want law and order; we want moderate taxation. If you will give us these things, we will prosper and foster these little industries, and in our time we will take care of you. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Winton—Now we come to a mighty power,

The Press,

and, to respond, we have one of its brightest ornaments—a man who was ever ready at Harrisburg to send therefrom, at midnight, the breeziest news in our behalf, making the long fingers of the telegraph click out our successes; always ready here at home, also, to assist us. I call upon the Hon. J. E. Barrett.

Mr. Barrett—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I have been admonished by our worthy chairman that, as the hour is well advanced, those who have long speeches to make would do well to cut them short. I am further admonished by the frequent visits of the "printer's devil," who has been flitting in and out during the evening for copy, that the paper will go to press very soon; therefore I must be brief. Besides, it is rather dangerous for the press, in the presence of so many judges and lawyers, to be too free with its utterances and opinions, as every careful editor must always keep in mind the fact that caution is quite as essential as courage, since we have such a thing as a stringent libel-law in Pennsylvania. I am pleased to know, however, that in case I should be arraigned in a temple of Justice for anything uttered in this presence, I could bring up my case in banc, as I believe we have a full bench here this evening, in which I have full confidence. Gentlemen, it has been said frequently that the press is the great lever in the world's progress; such I hope it will continue, playing its part in the world's history side by side with law and justice. In returning from the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of our new court-house, this afternoon, after standing in the rain, unconscious of the discomfort of the weather because of the great pleasure afforded in listening to Judge Hand's admirable address, I fell in with a friend who told me that he had often skated over the site selected for our temple of Justice, and that he had also, on many occasions, caught bull-heads there. This suggested to my mind a pleasant possibility. We all know that most lawyers and many judges are fond of the good old sport with which the name of Izaak Walton is inseparably connected, and it occurred to my mind just then that for a trifling outlay the

County Commissioners might provide for excellent fishing on the bench. It would be a most agreeable way to vary the monotony, if the judges could drop a line into the basement and enjoy themselves piscatorially in capturing an occasional bullhead, while the intelligent jury, under the somnolent effect of some great advocate's plea, went in quest of pastoral pleasures to the land of Nod.

But, as the press plays its part in the domain of progress, I don't propose that one of its humble representatives will bore you this evening with a tedious dissertation. The press, whatever else may be its shortcomings, is never at a loss to give advice to judges, lawyers, governors, presidents, and emperors. It can dictate a policy for the Peruvians that would discount all the efforts of Blaine or Shipherd, and, although the North Pole has never been discovered, it can tell exactly how it can be done. And need you wonder at this, when the electricity of the world is the servant of the press, and through the still hours of night becomes the subtle courier that carries information from the uttermost ends of the earth, to add to our stock of knowledge at the breakfast-table? With the electric telegraph and the press, those twin-ministers of light and liberty, error is impossible, and tyranny becomes a monster of such hideous mien "as to be hated needs but to be seen." The press needs no praise; it is its own best eulogist, and I trust that in the future of Lackawanna County it will be found aiding the right. It was my pleasure to see at Harrisburg, during the progress of our new-county bill, several of the faces that grace this festive board. They were always zealous and energetic in the interest of the people of this section. In those days we all realized, more fully than at any other time, the value of a friendly press, and it was always a pleasure to me to meet a newspaper editor or correspondent

whom I could convince of the justice of our side. As the press of Lackawanna has stood by the new county at its birth, and as it stands by it now, so, I trust, it will be found advocating its interests in all time to come; advocating an upright judiciary and the fearless administration of the law, and always raising its voice

> "'Gainst the wrong that needs resistance,
> For the cause that lacks assistance,
> For the future in the distance,
> And the good that it can do."

(*Applause.*)

Mr. Winton—From the time of the first organization of the first base-ball club, all through the history of Masonry, all through our taxation and the handling of the proceeds thereof, there was always one man who could respond to any toast. I now call upon Mr. E. P. Kingsbury for

Our City.

Mr. Kingsbury—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I appreciate the honor conferred upon me, in being requested to respond to the toast, "The City of Scranton, the third in this Commonwealth," but it is hard for me to understand why I should have been selected for this response, unless because it is customary to go to the "oldest inhabitants" for information, always being ready to make due allowance for their old age, general debility, and the consequent loss of a portion of their mental faculties. (*Applause.*) This may explain it, and, explaining it, will at the same time account for the feebleness of my effort.

"Scranton" is properly named, perpetuating as it does the names and memories of the gentlemen who planted here the seeds of industry, watering the soil with their wealth, practical knowledge, and personal zeal, causing to spring forth from the wilderness of a few years ago, this city, now the third in population in the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

But is it the third in population only? I think not. Could good Uncle Joseph Albright whisper in your ears the total shipments of coal during the past year in his department; could Brother Storrs, from the stores of his memory, tell you his story for the year 1881, and, following him, the genial gentleman from the old town of Gibsonburg, who thinks well enough of our city to invest largely here in real-estate, relate to you in the "Jermyn" dialect "what he knows about coal-mining," to say nothing of what could be added by the almost endless number of smaller operators who are "Connellizing" here (*applause*), I have a notion that Scranton would rank well as the third city of Pennsylvania in this particular. We might go on and speak of our iron-mills and steel-works, our blast-furnaces, machine-shops and silk-mills, and many other branches of mechanical industry, and thus show that we can, with much reason, lay claim to being the third city of our State in this particular, also. There are some things we may well be proud of as a city. We are well governed, and good order, peace, and quietness prevail to a greater extent than in any other city of its size I know of. I doubt whether there is a city, in or out of our State, with so large a population, where crime and lawlessness exist to a lesser degree than here, and where so small a police-force is necessary to maintain good order. (*Applause.*) When we consider the rapidity of our growth, this is truly remarkable. Why, so late as 1852, and even later, I think, the voters of what was then called Harrison (now

Scranton) had to go to Hyde Park to vote, and the whole of them put together could be crowded into one of our street-cars. Yet, at the last charter election, in February last, when our excellent Mayor was re-elected, nearly seven thousand votes were polled.

Again, we should congratulate ourselves upon the state of our finances, our city debt, after deducting assets, being but about $260,000. This, certainly, as compared with cities of like population, is not formidable—certainly not formidable enough to forbid its reasonable increase for the purpose of properly paving Lackawanna Avenue.

Again, Scranton, as a city, may be proud of its banks and banking institutions; for there is to-day on deposit in them, subject to check, over $3,500,000, and not one of these institutions but that can easily and promptly meet every one of its obligations. How well I remember when yon First National commenced business in a little frame building (half the dimensions of this room), on Lackawanna Avenue, and the cashier daily placing all the valuables of the bank in a tin box 7x9, and depositing it for safe-keeping in the vault of Mason, Meylert & Co. It would take a pretty good-sized vault to hold them now.

But, Mr. Chairman, time will not permit me to say more as to the present proud position that our city occupies, or to give more than a passing allusion to the splendid future which seems opening up before her, and I will conclude with the sentiment:

"The City of Scranton, now the third in the Commonwealth: may the rapidity of her growth, and her successes in the past, be an earnest of her glory in the future;"

—only adding that, while in many things she is the third in our Commonwealth, in others she is *first*, for no other city can

boast of as big and irregular paving-stones as Lackawanna Avenue can show, nor of mud as deep and thick as can be found on Wyoming. (*Applause.*)

Music—Plantation Medley.

Mr. Winton—Out in Covington Township there lives a family so highly respectable, so esteemed, that we delight to honor the very name. Two or three of the sons of that family have come among us. One of them has been elevated to the presidency of the Board of Trade of Scranton. I call upon Mr. T. H. Dale to respond to the toast,

Our Commercial Interests.

Mr. Dale—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I rather suspect that a shrewd man, one who was engaged in commercial interests, could take the self-congratulations and self-praise we have indulged in to-night and discount it fifty per cent., and then have a very reasonable capital to start the new county. (*Applause.*)

When the author Hawthorne was requested to respond to a toast at a banquet given by the Lord Mayor of London, he was greatly agitated, and sought the counsel of a friend as to what he should do. The friend's advice was this, that when he was called upon he must certainly rise to his feet, or else the assembled guests would think he was a fool and did not know enough to say anything, but after he had risen to his feet he must say just as little as possible, or else the same guests would think he was a fool, and did not know when he had said enough. I was reminded of this incident by the fact that when your genial Toast-Master notified me that, as President of the Board of Trade, I

would be expected to respond to the toast "Our Commercial Interests," he was particularly emphatic that I should be very brief and not say very much, just as though our commercial interests were a sort of pigmy affair, and could be readily handled in a speech of two or three minutes.

Now, if I may be allowed to use a paradox, commercial interests first made Scranton, and then Scranton made its commercial interests. For, before Scranton was, before it had assumed its present stately proportions and "magnificent distances," as so graphically described by Mr. KINGSBURY in responding to the toast "Our City," and long before any lawyers were here to give a banquet, "commercial interests" in the persons of the Messrs. SCRANTONS had sought it out; and the company they organized turned out to be the foundation for that which has since become Scranton city, with all its varied industries, and all its extended business interests. I know, sir, that in the flight of time many things we ought to remember sink out of sight, and the years close over them, but there are some things that remain visible across the years; and so it is that to-night I desire to pay tribute to the indomitable perseverance, to the will, the pluck, and the energy of these pioneers in our commercial interests, and to assert that their methods have been adopted, and have become characteristic of those who have since developed our commercial industries. And it is worthy of mention that if our town is noted for any one thing above another, it is for the push, and the vim, and the energy of those having in charge our commercial interests, and out of this vim and this push has sprung that of which we are so justly proud, the present flattering condition and position of our business interests. (*Applause.*) I feel, too, that credit should not be withheld from others who have aided in building up our industries and our

business enterprises—manufacturers, bankers, merchants, even lawyers—all have done their share, and all deserve credit. I shall not even omit a somewhat noted character, residing on our side of the river, who some time since started a store in one of the back streets of our city, and who was inclined to boast a great deal about the wonderful stock of goods he was carrying, and the large business he was doing, and who, on one occasion, after expatiating largely upon his great purchases, declared he had "everything in the *hardware* line, except *molasses*." (*Laughter.*)

Well, sir, out of these efforts has grown a commercial interest that to-day is represented by over 850 firms doing business here—by $7,000,000 invested in iron and steel works, by over $6,000,000 invested in merchandise, and over $4,000,000 invested in other industries and other enterprises, making in all over $17,000,000 invested in business, exclusive of the great railroad and coal corporations centering here.

I ought not to omit to mention something of the wonderful growth of these corporate interests, but I am admonished that one cannot treat this subject in a five-minutes' speech, and so I will simply take the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad Company, and let that company illustrate what all these companies are doing in the way of developing our commercial interests. There was shipped from this region by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad in 1852 (the first full year of coal shipments by this road) 67,487 tons of anthracite coal, and this amount has gone on increasing year by year until in 1881 this road shipped the enormous amount of 4,511,636 tons of coal. To accomplish this result, there has been added to its property coal-mine after coal-mine, and to its system of roads railroad after railroad, until to-day it is one of the largest and strongest corporate interests in our country. And the progress of the coal

industry as shown by this company can also be applied to a greater or lesser extent to other companies doing business in this region. The marvelous development of the coal industry has naturally and rapidly developed our general commercial interests; and, in the words of Mr. Storrs, the general coal-agent of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Company, "If the time ever comes (as I believe it must soon come) when the consumption of coal overtakes and equals the production, so that there shall be full work for those engaged in the mining and shipping of coal, we shall see a degree of prosperity for these regions heretofore unsurpassed." (*Applause.*)

And now, Mr. Chairman, since this is an occasion for merriment, and inasmuch as self-congratulations and spread-eagleism seem to be the fashion rather than dry figures and statistics, I declare to you that while I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, I yet indulge the hope that in that future which geologists assure us is coming, when the sands of Jersey shall have been covered by the waters of the Atlantic, when great New York shall have been engulfed, when the huckleberry heights of Pocono shall have been submerged, then, sir, will come our glory; then our own classic Lackawanna will have been made navigable, through an appropriation secured by our Congressman, and Scranton will be the metropolis, the beat of whose trade-pulsations will be felt to the utmost limits of the great Republic. *Laughter and applause.*)

Mr. Winton—Now I come to one of the California pioneers. I had prepared some remarks, but the best thing I can say, is to say he was the man in the gap—the Hon. R. H. McKune.

Our Fire Department.

Mr. McKune—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I feel somewhat out of place to-night, in responding to the toast, "Our Fire Department." All the other gentlemen that have spoken here this evening, have spoken upon subjects they are perfectly familiar with, but the Toast Committee have placed me upon a different ground. I must say this—that this day and this night have been among the happy days and nights of my life. (*Applause.*) The day of the laying of the corner-stone of the new court-house for the County of Lackawanna, brings to my mind an incident of which I was a participant, in 1850, when, standing upon Telegraph Hill, looking down the straits, as the steamer *Oregon* entered the gates, and upon her fore-sail was printed in large letters, "California—she has been admitted to the Union." We, as pioneers in '49, had in convention met and given birth to a State, which went forth in her full completeness, clothed about her loins with the leaves of the vine and fig. Upon her breasts she bore the sheaves of her bounteous land, with sandals of silver. Upon her brow she wore a crown of the purest gold. In her hands were the products of her vineyards and the fruits of her orchards. As she went forth, her path was strewn with flowers such as no queen of the earth had ever trodden upon in their native beauty. As she approached the capital of our country, where sat in council the sages of the Union, her strength, beauty, and wealth entranced them all. But, alas for the cupidity of man. Some of those sages soon raised against her their opposition. For she was commissioned to bear to the capitol the voice of her people, who, through her constitution, had bade her say that they had decreed that all men who stood upon her soil should be freemen; that no blot of slavery should blacken her

escutcheon. She was the first to enunciate the grand principle of "Popular Sovereignty"—that principle that was to bring the minds of the sages in conflict. In the council-chamber stood, pleading her cause, WEBSTER, DICKINSON, BENTON, SEWARD, and others, while CALHOUN and BERRIAN led on the forces in opposition. There she stood for long and weary months, awaiting permission to enter into union with her sister-States. She was not ashamed of her representatives, for among them was FREEMONT, to the world known as a hardy and successful explorer, who had been the first to place the flag of our country upon the peaks of the Rocky Mountains, who had secured the friendship of KIT CARSON and others of those adventurous men who had passed beyond the pale of civilization, and had joined their lives and fortunes with the red men, who then held almost undisputed possession of the vast plains beyond the great rivers. He, better than any other man in the country, realized the value to the Union of the acquisition of California. He plead with the senators to go forth with him and stand upon Mount Diablo, and look away to the West, across to the Pacific, and behold, whitening her bosom, the great fleet of merchantmen who were bringing as their lading the products of the lands of China, Japan, and the islands of the sea; and behold, as they enter the portals of the Golden Gate, they salute the flag which would represent the great country that lay stretched along its thousands of miles, until it meets its boundary in the Atlantic Ocean. At the east lie the valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin, while beyond, in the forests, were to be seen the great trees—the wonder and admiration of the world. Still beyond lay the valley of the Yosemite, where the travelers of all nations who are permitted to enter within its portals stand in astonishment and awe as they look around on every side and behold the effect of nature's great forces, which

has piled cliff on cliff, until their lofty peaks pierce the clouds, telling to man there is a God, while the mountain-brooks, leaping along their way and plunging over mighty precipices, forming those beautiful cataracts which waft forth songs of praise to the bounteous Giver of all good and perfect gifts. So great a heritage as this great State, without money and without price, was never before offered to a nation.

I thank you, sir, for introducing me as an old Californian amid these pioneers of Scranton, gathered here this evening, as it has revived the memories of those days when I, too, was a pioneer. I said that day, when the news arrived that we had been admitted to the Union, was a happy day to me.

And so when we stood there in the Chamber tallying as we did when the vote was carried to 101 on the third reading of the New-County bill, that was a happy moment. But there was something in the future—there was an election—and to-night we have no question at all, in regard to the future. Thanks to the first Commissioners of the County of Lackawanna, they have laid their ground well, and the noble edifice to be erected is now in the hands of their successors, which, I have no doubt, under the contractor and the architect, and the vigilant supervision of the Commissioners, will rise in all its beauty and majesty, so it will be an honor, not only to our city, but to the Commonwealth and to the country. (*Applause.*)

Permit me, Mr. President, in behalf of the fire-department of this city, to thank you for remembering them at this banquet, and at this time. You citizens of Scranton have as fine an organization as there is in the United States, and are you aware, fellow-taxpayers of the City of Scranton, that your whole fire-department of this city costs less money than one half of the cost of a single company in Philadelphia or New York? (*Applause.*)

This city is run under the system of cheap government, which Mr. SCRANTON referred to, and the fire-department has had but $5,000 yearly appropriation for the last six or seven years, out of which they run their steamers and hose-carts, and supply the hose, and do the work free for you. I speak to you, gentlemen, as representatives of the City of Scranton. Look well to your interests; instruct your law-makers of the city to care well for the firemen, for the day is fast approaching when the volunteer department, if not well cared for, will demand from your hands a paid fire department, which will cost you much more than the present department costs you now. I speak with some pride as a fireman. In 1842 I was elected as a fireman in the village of Newburg. It has been my privilege to be a fireman from that day until one year ago. Thirty-six years of my life have I not laid down at night on my bed, or undressed myself, without knowing where every piece of clothing I wore, or would be compelled to wear if the fire-bell should call me out, was to be found.

I look back over the labors thus performed with feelings of deep satisfaction, and, while life is given unto me, expect to do all in my humble power for the interests of the volunteer firemen. I feel highly delighted with the banquet, for it has gathered together some of the pioneers of Scranton, and many of the workers in the new-county cause, and all has gone as merry as a marriage-bell.

Professor BAUER'S orchestra, at universal request, favored the assembly with the beautiful medley of the "Mocking-Bird."

MR. WINTON—To the toast,

OUR ABSENT FRIENDS,

we had expected the silver-tongued orator to respond, but

we are doomed to disappointment. We have his letter, which I will now read :

SCRANTON, PA., May 23, 1882.

A. H. WINTON, ESQ., *Master of Ceremonies, &c. :*

DEAR SIR : Your kind invitation to participate in the new-county banquet on 25th inst., and to reply to subject-toast "Our Absent Friends," is duly received.

It is with regret that I am obliged to be an absent friend on the occasion, engagements previously made requiring it.

Permit me, however, to acknowledge with compliments the distinguished favor.

Very truly,

J. A. PRICE.

Mr. WINTON—We have now reached one of the most interesting topics, to wit: *Woman;* and I remark, "Woman was not taken from the head of man, that she should be his superior, nor from his feet to show that he was her master, but from his side, to show that she was to be his companion and helpmate," and I call upon Mr. F. J. FITZSIMMONS to respond to the toast,

WOMAN.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: I will say but a word, as I feel much embarrassed in speaking before this audience. I am inexperienced and young, yet not so young but that I can remember when the Democratic party was successful, and I don't think I will have to live much longer to find it successful again. (*Applause.*)

I cannot understand why a response to a toast embodying so much loveliness should be assigned a person having but a limited acquaintance with those who have always on such occasions as this been noticed in language the choicest and eloquence of the first order.

Did I possess the tongue of Tully, in all its living power, I could not faithfully portray the many ennobling qualities that characterize the nobleness of a true woman. I have never experienced her gentle, soothing disposition when aroused from her first slumbers to let her devoted husband in after his long, dreary hours at the club-meeting. I have never been made happy by her kind words and smiling countenance, when her innocent mind has concluded to get the latest fashions. Having been deprived of this experience, I can speak but vaguely on this subject.

Woman has always been a fruitful theme for the novelist and poet, while the sculptor's highest ideal—the model *par excellence*—is that of a true, noble, and beautiful woman. (*Applause.*) In history she plays a prominent part, and in point of antiquity is nearly coeval with man. The Good Book so frequently found in the hands of lawyers says that man was created first and woman after him. Some profane scribe, with little regard for the truth or esteem for the fair sex, has improperly and falsely said that she has been after him ever since. (*Laughter and applause.*) It has been with equal falsehood stated that the first woman was named Eve because her coming into the world proved that man's day of happiness, his hours of ease, his time of peace and contentment was about to close. (*Laughter and applause.*)

Woman is stronger in her affections than man. Love is said to be an episode in man's life, but it is woman's sole existence. The love of woman is the distinguishing and noblest trait in her

character. It was the love and intuition of the wife of Pontius Pilate that led her to warn him against the crime he was about to sanction in consenting to giving our Savior into the hands of the mob. It was woman who followed JESUS to the cross, and it was she who was first to greet Him on the resurrection morn. (*Applause.*)

In the annals of heroism her name proudly appears. Whether ministering to the wounded on the field of battle, or consoling, with words of endearing tenderness, the dying, her virtues shine forth with conspicuous splendor. (*Applause.*) 'Twas she who aroused heroic, and at that time despondent, France from a lethargy of despair, and when the nationhood of that illustrious land hung in the balance of uncertainty, she infused her gallant countrymen with a spirit of valor that ended in their retaining their rights and the name accorded them in history for bravery and love of country. (*Applause.*)

When America's most charming author, in words of rainbowed beauty, said that a mother's love transcended all other affections of the heart, he wrote the sentiment of mankind. (*Applause.*)

The locomotive, with gleaming eye and thunderous voice, as with lightning-speed it annihilates distances, is the grandest of objects, but when it jumps the track and is stuck in the mud, it becomes one of the most despicable and helpless objects that can be seen; yet a woman, out of her place—"out of her sphere," if you please—is a still more despicable object. In some of the Western States, I learn with alarm, she is being admitted into legal ranks. (*Laughter.*) While the immortal Greeley advised young men to do otherwise, yet my advice to lawyers is, "Don't go West." (*Laughter and applause.*)

What chance would a most ingenious or eloquent advocate

have in winning a case before a jury that would be appealed to, implored, and their appearances complimented by some fair Venus? (*Laughter and applause.*)

If it were within the range of possibility that the Court, too, would lend a willing ear to her gentle requests, and lean towards her in its rulings, it requires no prophetic gift to say with some degree of certainty, that the lawyers of the present may be the farmers of the future. It certainly is within the compass of possibility that the judiciary might become influenced by her wooings. This would be made possible only by the death of our present judges. Some judges die, but few resign. They will in all probability hold court till the Great Judge sends after them to give their proceedings here below a final review.

Woman has been in all ages the kindling inspiration of patriotism, eloquence, poesy, and song. She watched over our infancy, and would not permit the winds of winter to visit us too roughly. She is found by the bedside of the sick, administering every comfort that the fever-heated brain suggests. She places the last wreath of affection on the coffin-lid and decorates the grave with floral offerings. Her tribute of friendship, her mementoes of kindness, her deeds of charity, are too numerous to be further mentioned at this time. Let us hope that at all times to come her virtues may receive from a generous manhood the reward they so richly deserve, and that the bar of Lackawanna, though young in years, yet great in promise, may not only acquire a laudable standing, from a professional standpoint, but that its members may always willingly render their services in defending the fortunes and reputations of the sex, on behalf of whom I have so poorly responded on this highly sociable and memorable occasion. (*Applause.*)

Mr. WINTON—During our Legislative fight there was a member upon whom we had only half a claim, as he also represented the Pittston end of the district, but he battled manfully for the right, and all of us have enthusiastically praised him ever since, and we hope, in due time, to fittingly reward him. I call upon the Hon. ALBERT I. ACKERLY.

Mr. ACKERLY—

MR. PRESIDENT: I have never been noted for public speaking. I am somewhat like one of our major-generals, who, just before a battle, said: "My command is not much on dress-parade, but, when fighting is to be done, we are there." When the right time came I hope I did speak and vote to your entire satisfaction, in spite of the many inducements held out to influence me otherwise, and, as it is so early in the morning, I trust you will permit me to be excused, with the statement that I have enjoyed myself immensely, and heartily join in the mutual congratulations. (*Applause.*)

Mr. WINTON—I call upon Mr. S. T. SCRANTON, who now resides in the foreign land of Jersey, but who was one of the pioneers of Scranton, and who helped to lay well and deep our sure footing whereon we have built so well.

Mr. SELDEN T. SCRANTON—

MR. CHAIRMAN: It gives me great pleasure to see so many citizens of Scranton, a great many whom I esteem as friends. At this late hour I cannot expect to detain you, but only rise to express my great pleasure in having been here with you on this

joyous occasion. I can but feel the liveliest interest in the prosperity of this new county of Lackawanna and of this city of Scranton. I remember it when there were only seventeen souls in this place. I have watched its progress, growth, and prosperity for forty-one years, from the 20th of last August, and shall, while life lasts, look upon it with the liveliest interest. I wish you all the prosperity and success you are worthy of. (*Applause.*)

The Chairman then called on Colonel Charles Scranton for a speech.

Mr. Charles Scranton—

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen of the Lackawanna County Bar, the Luzerne County Bar, and all the other "Bars" here present (*laughter*), and Fellow-Citizens: I am very unexpectedly with you on this joyous occasion. When I left my home in New Jersey this afternoon, I did not even know that anything unusual was in progress in your city. I find myself your guest, and now you have called on me for a speech. At this late, or early, hour, after so many good things have been said, by so many able speakers, what shall I say? Shall I go back to the early days of your town's history, and call to mind some of the pleasant incidents of my early recollections of Slocum Hollow? As this part has been somewhat overlooked, I will, in my brief remarks, refer to the glory and work of the early days of your city's history; for, from its foundation to the present time, I have watched, with deepest interest, every step in your rapid rise and progress, your wealth and prosperity. Then you were a feeble folk. Now you have risen to rank and station, and you are here to-night to celebrate a great event in your history—the laying of the corner-stone of a new court-house of a county sec-

ond to none for its real wealth and enterprise in this great Commonwealth. But we must not despise the day of small things. Forty years ago, I believe there was but one lawyer (the late CHARLES H. SILKMAN) between Carbondale and Pittston, and only one small church-building in the same territory, and very few (and they were very small) school-houses in this same valley. Now your lawyers are numerous, as I notice by the number here present, and your churches and school-houses are numerous, and noted for their style of architecture, and the moral and educational influences going out therefrom. (*Applause.*) I will give you one or two items that can hardly fail to interest those living at that time, and those who have been born since. At that time our worthy chairman was about the only doctor in this section. The families were far apart, and generally very healthy. The whole vote of Providence Township, if my memory serves me, was about 147. The doctor, *though exceedingly conscientious*, had pretty hard work to keep his patients, at that early day, sick long enough to make a fair living. (*Laughter.*) He had to go into the lumber and drug business, and trade a horse occasionally, to make a decent living. I remember having been called up from New Jersey to help, in place of one of the book-keepers who was sick, or nearly so, by the loneliness here, after coming from the large town of Oxford. It was then that, in order to relieve the monotony of the situation, I proposed getting up a debating school. The thing took quickly, and I was appointed to draw up the constitution and by-laws, and our worthy chairman was appointed to give the opening lecture. I need not tell you it was a grand one. (*Laughter.*) I believe it had to be repeated at numerous villages in the county. The late Hon. W. W. KETCHAM and others began in this little thing to show their brain-power. For the generous part which I bore in the prem-

ises I was, with Mr. CHARLES F. MATTES, excused from taking part in the debates, and we were made "gentleman judges" for the whole winter. MARTIN L. NEWMAN, the chief-of-police of the town, and the only constable for miles around, was also on hand as a debater. Another great event transpired. It was resolved, at a public meeting held at the house of N. D. GREEN, Hyde Park, that the coming National Anniversary ought to be, and should be, celebrated with imposing ceremony, and the citizens of Razorville, Bucktown, and Slocum Hollow were invited to co-operate to make it a grand success, and show the folks down the valley what could be done up this way. There are a few yet living who well remember the day—how the delegations came in from the places named; how proudly old Captain FELTZ, the grand marshal, led the procession, with "sword and buckler" by his side, and his numerous Masonic emblems dangling by his coat-collar (*laughter*); how the delegation from Slocum Hollow, in single file, fell in line with Colonel GEORGE W. SCRANTON at the head, Dr. THROOP second, with fiddle and bow, CHARLES F. MATTES next with clarionet, some other one with bass-drum, Esquire GRANT, R. W. OLMSTEAD, WILLIAM SANDS, WILLIAM MANNESS, and some twenty others, all marching to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne," down the old stump-fence road, over the teetering bridge, up the steep side-hill (*laughter*), and solemnly into the little church, well packed with eager listeners to the oration that was to follow, and the martial music, and to hear the rendering by the vocal and instrumental powers present, of the ode prepared for the occasion by one of the *literati* of the valley, which was all played and sung to the principal tune, "Auld Lang Syne." (*Laughter.*) I wish I had time to recite it, and could remember it. (*Cries of "Give us a verse."*) Well, it ran about this way:

"The land wheron our village stands,
Where once the savage trod,
Is mostly cleared, you'll understand,
And covered o'er with sod."

(*Loud calls were here given for more of it.*) Well, another verse ran about thus:

"Brave Washington, now dead and gone,
No more of him you'll see,
America, her greatest son,
He gained her liberty."

Now, to be more serious. I have heard from the gentlemen who preceded me, of the great struggle you have gone through with in finally obtaining your object—a new county. How that, as you always need, you have had the good offices and friendship of your worthy chairman, the doctor, all the way through, in having the birth of this new daughter of old Mother Luzerne more than a still-birth. But, as the legal gentlemen present have stated it, no more new counties can be made under your present Constitution. I therefore have to congratulate the friends from old Luzerne, on the fact that no more counties are to be cut from her territory; that she will be spared all these birth-pains in the future; and now, side by side, these two great counties, Luzerne and Lackawanna, one in interest and origin, are to go on hand-in-hand in all the great work before them. And in conclusion let me here say that the broad, deep, and solid foundations laid here by the late William Henry, Colonel George W. Scranton, Philip H. Mattes, Sanford Grant (who still lives, and ought to be here to-night), and Selden T. Scranton, at the beginning, and later aided by Joseph H. Scranton and others, with the good-will and fellowship of your chairman and the

other citizens then in this vicinity, have made it possible to have this new county, this corner-stone laid, this banquet, this city—the third in size in this Commonwealth—so well governed and orderly, that its police-force is said to be the smallest, for the same-sized population, in the Union; and for my friend, Mr. JOHN JERMYN, who sits there, and who did his first day's work in the garden of Mr. S. T. SCRANTON, for seventy-five cents, to be a millionaire; for your honored chairman to be another; for my good friend on my right, Mr. J. J. ALBRIGHT, to come back from old Virginia shorn of this fortune, and now rich beyond measure; for my young friend CONNOLLY, whose father did good work for the pioneers at the first old furnace, to be the respondent to-night for the junior members of the Bar of Lackawanna County; and so I might go on, did time and your patience permit, and call out by name hundreds of others who have made a name and fame, and money, and homes, here in this city and valley, because of of the solid foundations laid, of the privations, hard work, and struggles of the pioneers, which were overcome by their indomitable pluck, and, aided by your churches, and schools, and good-fellowship. All these combinations, with those before alluded to, form, in history, a part of the enjoyment of this festive occasion. May God bless you all in all the proper aims and objects of life, and "Justice, with her even scales," be deeply fixed in your hearts, in your business transactions for yourselves and others.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your patience, and your kind attention to my remarks, which have been too long extended. (*Cries*, "Go on! Go on!") No, it is already too late. (*Applause.*)

Music—"Auld Lang Syne."

The President called upon Mr. J. J. ALBRIGHT.

Mr. Albright—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: You all know I am no speaker. I can only say I was here among the first pioneers. When I came I was offered this whole plot of ground, about 500 acres, for $10 an acre. (*A voice:* "Why did you not buy it?") I had not the five thousand dollars. (*Laughter.*) At that time I did not remain here, but went to Virginia and returned in 1851. The outgrowth of Scranton has been much greater than any of us, even in what our friends called our fancy-flights, ever conceived; and as we have listened this evening to the recitals of the pluck and energy that have been for forty years with the citizens of this section on the subject of a new county, so I may say the same spirit has been manifested in her coal, her manufacturing, and commercial interests. (*Applause.*) Dark clouds have settled, and storms at times have swept over us, and many have been shipwrecked, but dismay came not so strong as to entirely dishearten all. There are those here to-night, and in our cemeteries lie others, who were always ready when the least glimmer of light appeared above the horizon to push forward to victory. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I am thankful that I have been permitted to see this day. It has been to me one of great joy, and as I have listened this evening to the many most excellent speeches of congratulation, I desire to say that, while I wish to see prosperity and success on every hand, yet I more rejoice in the success of every effort that tends to add prosperity to this city. I trust that no person who was active in the formation of this new county will ever have cause to regret the labor performed, and that the temple of Justice, whose corner-stone has this day been laid, will always be the house wherein *equal and exact justice to all* shall be administered by pure and upright judges. (*Applause.*)

Calls for Mr. JOHN JERMYN.

Mr. JERMYN—

Mr. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: I do not know as I would have been here with you to enjoy this most pleasant occasion if I had had the least intimation that I should be called upon for a speech, and I beg to assure you, gentlemen, that with the exception of this call I am free to say that this has been one of the most agreeable evenings, and I may say mornings, I have ever been permitted to enjoy. The reminiscences of many incidents that have transpired during my residence here, some of which I was permitted to be a participant in, has brought to my mind the period when I came first to Scranton. The world has dealt generously with me since then, and for that success I feel under great obligations to one who at all times and under all circumstances was my friend, and who, as his brother has told you, I did my first day's work for in this locality. I have desired for some years to give a public recognition of the esteem in which I hold his memory. This, to me, seems my opportunity, and as no monument marks the spot where he now lies, I would suggest that a subscription for the erection of a monument to Colonel GEORGE W. SCRANTON be now started, and you may put me down for one, two, or three hundred dollars. (*Applause.*)

Dr. B. H. THROOP seconded the suggestion, and H. M. EDWARDS, Esq., moved the appointment of a committee of five to act with the chairman in carrying it into effect. The committee was appointed, and consists of Dr. THROOP and Messrs. JOHN JERMYN, R. W. ARCHBALD, H. M. EDWARDS, J. J. ALBRIGHT, and HENRY A. KINGSBURY.

Three cheers for the Toast-Master were lustily given.

Calls for F. W. Gunster.

Mr. Gunster—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: When I consented to act on the Committee on Toasts it was with the distinct understanding that I would not be called upon to speak to-night. I tried to do my work well on that committee, and the fact that we have been so well entertained this evening, is proof that the work of that committee has been done well.

I am sorry that the gentleman who was on the programme to-night, and who would have done the subject justice, is not here to respond to the toast, "Our Absent Friends."

Many men have been interested in this new-county question who are not with us to-night, and whom we shall never see again in this life—men like William Merrifield and Captain Robinson. And there is another man whom I shall always think of with the feeling that when I met him, I met a *man*. He wasn't born in this country; he was a Scotchman, and, like all good Scotchmen, he loved the land of his birth, but because he preferred a country where it wasn't necessary to have a standing army to keep the crown upon the royal head, he came to this country. A man of keen perception, of strict integrity, of great energy; a man of unusual ability, a man who was devoted to his country, and when his country called, he was ready; a man who was devoted to the interests of this community; a man who may have had his faults, but a man who had his virtues and his friends. I know that man is with us in spirit to-night. I propose the name of William N. Monies. (*Applause.*)

The guests then rose and drank to the memory of William N. Monies.

The President called upon Mr. Isaac C. Price.

Mr. Price—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: By a mere chance I am here with you this morning. I heard yesterday that during the evening of that day you were going to have the laying of the corner-stone, and I took a great deal of pleasure in attending yesterday and hearing the eloquent remarks of Judge Hand upon that occasion. I came here on my first visit some nineteen years ago, when certain gentlemen who had control of my movements thought you could not take care of yourselves. I was sent up here and remained four or five months at that time. I have listened to-night with pleasure to the remarks that have been made, and I am fully confident that if one tithe of what has been said about Lackawanna County and about Scranton City is true, you are amply sufficient to attend to your own wants at this time.

I have heard this evening that this is one of the greatest counties, the third largest city in the Commonwealth, with the best judiciary, a most numerous and most distinguished bar. Some of that is news to me. I did think that the little settlement wherein I live down on the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers had something of a bar, and some legal talent, but it is now somewhat of a question in my mind whether it amounts to as much as I thought it did. I have about made up my mind, while sitting here, that if in my life-time the period shall come that Mr. Dale has spoken of, and my city shall be submerged, why I'll come up here and live (*Laughter*)—that is, if you will let me ("*Yes, yes, come*"); for I am really glad to say that I believe that Scranton is a live place. When I first visited here nineteen years ago, all of the opposite side of the street was bare. Now on every hand I see good, substantial improvements, and as year by year I visit you, these improvements stand out in

bold relief before me. I am glad to see them. I have some interests here. I have had confidence in the future of Scranton, and I am pleased to fully realize that my confidence has not been misplaced. If time would permit, I should be pleased to speak of some incidents that I have witnessed here, but the morning hour warns me 'tis time to stop. I thank the President, Dr. THROOP, for his invitation that permitted me to be with you and enjoy this pleasant occasion. (*Cheers.*)

The band then played a medley of "Old Lang Syne" and "Home, Sweet Home," and amid universal congratulations, all retired, each to his home as best he could to enjoy his dreams.

ADDENDUM.

The following are the conditions of the deed by which the County of Lackawanna holds the block of ground whereon the new court-house is being built:

First: The said land shall be used solely for the purposes of county, city, and United States public buildings, and a public park.

Second: That portion of the said square or block in the center thereof, being two hundred and forty (240) feet in width on Washington Avenue, and two hundred and forty (240) feet in width on Adams Avenue, and running through the block, shall be held by the said party of the second part for public buildings and public park.

Third: That portion of said square or block between said last-mentioned portion and Linden Street shall be held by the said party of the second part, in trust for the City of Scranton, to be conveyed to said city, subject to be used by said city for city buildings and a public park, and said county may require said city, before making conveyance, to convey a sufficient quantity of their land, known as the Tripp property, for the erection of a county jail thereon, should said county so desire, and may also require said city to reimburse the said county for moneys expended on improvements to the said block so to be conveyed.

Fourth: The remaining portion of said block, being that portion lying between the first above-mentioned portion and Spruce Street, shall be held in trust, to be conveyed to the United States of America, whenever the United States shall demand it, to be used for postoffice, court-house, or public buildings of any kind for the National Government, and, when so demanded, a deed for the same shall be made in fee simple. Before a conveyance of the same is made, the said county may require the United States to reimburse the said county for moneys expended on improvements to such portion of said block so to be conveyed.

Fifth: Should said land and premises, except that to be conveyed to the United States, cease to be used for public buildings, or public park, then the title to the same shall revert to the said parties of the first part, their respective heirs, successors, or assigns, as they now hold the same.